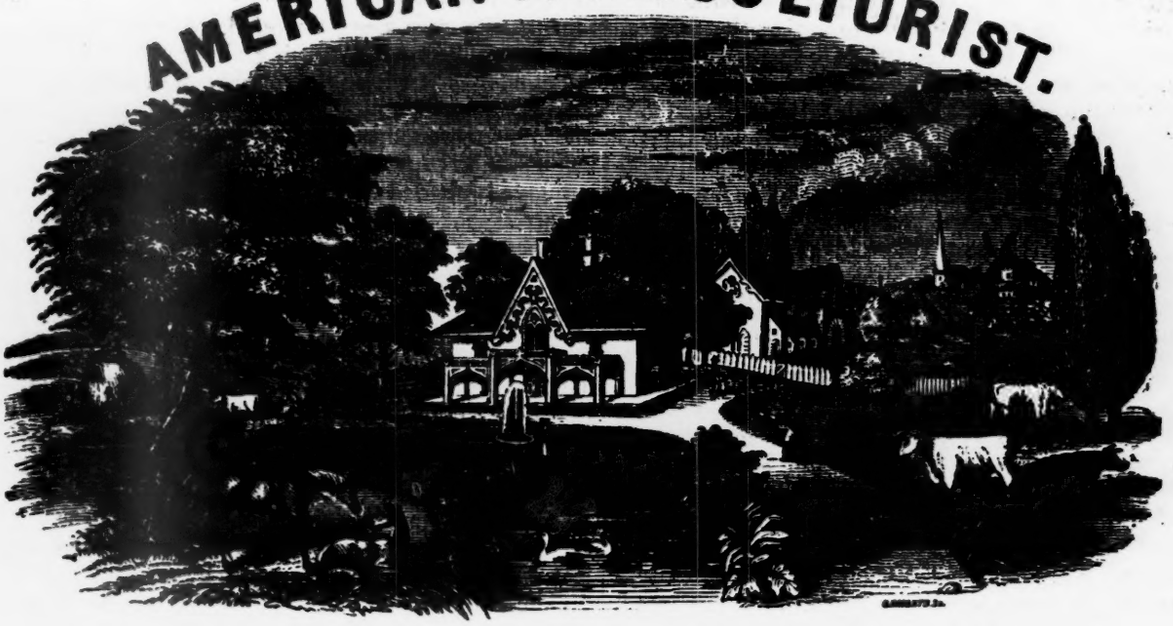
AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.



Agriculture is the most healthful, the most useful, and the most noble employment of man.—WASHINGTON.

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A. B. ALLEN. Editor. HARPER & BROTHERS, Publishers.

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No. 1 of volume vii., will be promptly issued on the 1st of January next, for which the publishers confidently trust that all those who have taken the present volume will not only renew their subscriptions, but persuade as many of their friends and neighbors as it is possible to take it. When we consider the extremely low price of the Agriculturist, the value of its contents, and the handsome manner in which it is got up, it is a wonder that it is not in the hands of every family in America. We fearlessly assert, that a single number has never been issued that is not worth a year's subscription to the farmer who has carefully read and digested its contents. How valuable to him, then, a regular perusal of the whole volume.

Subscribers will please to recollect, that the subscription is *payable in advance*. Many have requested that the paper might be continued to them if the money was not promptly forwarded for it. Being desirous of doing all in their power to accommodate subscribers, the publishers have frequently acceded to this request; but the amount of subscription is so small, and the delay and trouble in collecting it proves so great, that they have decided in all cases hereafter, to adhere strictly to their terms of *payment in advance*. Subscribers would never make objection to this decision if they had any idea of the loss and trouble of conducting a periodical when any other course is pursued. The publishers would gladly make exceptions to this rule in favor of those with whom they are personally acquainted, but they find it so inconvenient that it cannot well be done.

Terms for single copies $1; three copies $2; eight copies $5. The last price makes the paper cost only *sixty-two and a half cents* per volume. Who would not take it at this very low price? We hope many will be induced to club and order it—they cannot do themselves a greater benefit.

FARMERS' WINTER WORK.

NOTHING is of more importance to the agriculturist than to have all the operations of the farm attended to in their proper season. "Let the farmer drive his work, not let his work drive him," is a good motto, which every one will do well to practise upon. Among those things which can best be done in winter, and most inconveniently in spring, is the removal of the manure-heaps to their proper places. While the sledding is good or the roads hard and smooth, the cattle and their owners have little to do. All the manure which can be easily got at, should be removed to the field where wanted. There is no more danger of its loss while piled up there and uncovered, than while lying around the barn. It will not decompose in severe weather, and whenever a slight thaw takes place, a sufficient quantity of earth will be loosened from the frost, which can be thrown on it. A better plan is to have muck heaps, or piles of peat taken to such parts of the fields, as it is intended to draw the manure, and spread them plentifully over the manure as it is drawn out. This will absorb all the gases from the decomposing manure, while the peat undergoes salutary changes from the air and rain, and frosts itself, which tend to prepare it as a fertilizer. The intimate blending or intermixture of this with the manure when spread on the land will insure the

greatest efficacy of both. By thus disposing of a considerable part of the manure during the winter, a tedious job of hauling in the spring, when plowing, planting, and numerous other demands are made on the farmer's time, is avoided, and that too, frequently when the roads are almost impassable from mud, and the manure itself is saturated with spring rains, and after having lost no inconsiderable portion of its value from its decomposition and the escape of its most valuable gases; this effect being much promoted by the greater heat, occasioned by the large accumulation of the manure around the well-sheltered buildings and yards.

APPLE-ORCHARDS.—No. 4.

Protection of Trees against Stock.—When young trees have been carefully planted and well fenced, they will require but little attention, except that of keeping up the fences, and to see that they are not shaken by the wind. The mode of fencing must be suited to the kind of stock kept in the orchard. If sheep only are depastured, each tree may be closely surrounded by strong thorns stuck in the ground, enclosed and sustained by thick stakes, firmly driven, and reaching nearly to the forks. These stakes should be strongly bound together by bands or withes; and, as a further precaution against damage from the gnawing of sheep, at any exposed place, the tree should be washed or smeared with a mixture of creamy lime and green cow-dung, which should be renewed, from time to time, as occasion may require. If it be indispensable to stock the orchard occasionally with large cattle, each tree must be fenced by two or three strong, rough posts, firmly fixed in the ground, and united by strong battens or short rails, nailed to each. In some situations, where suitable stones abound, the trees are sometimes surrounded by circular walls.*

Orchards may be Tilled or Plowed.—In answer to the question often asked, "whether orchards ought to be plowed?" we would reply, that it is an old and prevalent opinion that fruit-trees of every kind are improved and rendered better, by having the ground stirred round them, in order to let in the dew and air to their roots. And with this view, orchards have often been tilled for potatoes, grain, and other crops, to which there are two striking objections; first, they require the light of the sun, and will not well flourish under the shade of trees; and second, that being exhausting crops, they impoverish the soil, which is so far injurious to the apples, both in quantity and quality. But the Jerusalem artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*), which is extensively cultivated on the banks of the Rhine, rather prefers the shade, and would therefore thrive well under the trees; and, so far from exhausting the land, will, it is said, bear abundantly for ten or more years in succession, without manure, even upon poor soils. It has been further stated, that it does not require much tilling after it has once been planted; for it is only necessary to draw the tops out of the ground, when ripe, the remaining roots being sufficient to produce the next year's crop, without fresh setting, and thus they continue from year to year until they die of old age. All these properties seem to render this plant suitable for orchards; the pulling it up will open the ground, while the avoidance of digging, after once set, will spare the roots of the trees many a wound. It also possesses the rare property of absorbing nitrogen largely from the atmosphere, which is probably the reason of its thriving so well without manure, and consequently improves the condition of the soil. It is planted in drills similar to potatoes, and like them, its roots are employed for food for man and animals. It has been observed that orchards, when plowed, often rapidly advance to a certain point, and then cease to flourish; but this is believed to be caused by planting the trees too near each other, and by plowing between them, hurries their roots towards each other until their interference checks their future growth. The chief objection to plowing an orchard is, that, in a hilly country, having a soil easily carried off by water, such a soil, if kept bare and loose, will, in time, become sensibly diminished, where horizontal furrows are insufficient to remedy the evil. But this circumstance ought to forbid the use of the plow, not only in an orchard, but for any object whatever, in such a situation. In plowing an orchard, care must also be observed not to go too deep amongst the roots, which would greatly damage the trees by the wounds they would receive.

* See Journ. Roy. Agr. Soc. of England, iv., pp. 390 et seq.

THE DOMESTIC FLORA OF CHINA.—No. 6.

Trees and Shrubs.—The only trees to the cultivation of which the Chinese pay any attention, are the fruit-bearing kinds; and in some places there are very fair orchards containing the mango, leechee, longan, wangpee, orange, citrons, and Pumeloes.

All the peaches, grapes, pears, plums, oranges, &c., which are brought to the markets of Tinghae in the summer season, are from the main land. There are, however, two fruits cultivated on the island of Chusan, which are of considerable excellence; the one is called *Yangmai*, a scarlet fruit, not unlike an arbutus or strawberry, but having a stone like a plum in the centre; the other is the *kum-quat*, a small species of citrus, about the size of an oval gooseberry, with a sweet rind and sharp, acid pulp. This fruit is well known in a preserved state by those who have any intercourse with Canton, and a small quantity is generally sent home as presents every year. Preserved in sugar, according to the Chinese method, it is excellent. Groves of the kum-quat are common on all the hill-sides of Chusan. The bush grows from three to six feet high, and, when covered with its orange-colored fruit, is a very pretty object.

The tallow-tree (*Stillingia sebifera*) is abundant in the valleys of Chusan, and large quantities of tallow and oil are yearly extracted from its seeds; tallow mills are erected in several parts of the island for this purpose. The *Laurus camphora*, or camphor tree, is also abundant, but no camphor is extracted or exported from the island. The green tea shrub (*Thea viridis*) is cultivated everywhere; but if we except a small quantity which is annually sent over to the main land—to Ningpo and the adjacent towns—the whole is used by the inhabitants themselves. Every small farmer and cottager has a few plants on his premises, which he rears with considerable care, but seems to have no wish to enter on its cultivation on a larger scale. Indeed it is questionable if it would answer, as the soil is

scarcely rich enough; and although the shrub grows pretty well, it is far from being so luxuriant as it is in the larger tea districts on the main land. The forests of different varieties of bamboo are very striking, and give a kind of tropical character to the Chusan scenery. I do not know anything more beautiful than the yellow bamboo with its clean and straight stem, and graceful top and branches waving in the breeze; it always reminded me of our young larch forests at home. The fir tree, found in the south, is also common in this part of China. It seems to be an exception to a general rule, being met with all over the country, and in every degree of latitude. Here the *Cunninghamia sinensis*, another of the pine tribe, is also found in abundance. It is more rare in the south. Besides these there are several species of cypress and juniper, which are always found growing around the tombs of the wealthy, which are scattered over the valley and hill-sides.

I have already mentioned the clumps of cypress and pine-trees planted in the cemeteries of the rich, which are seen studded all over the country, and form one of its most striking features. Among these, I met for the first time with the beautiful *Cryptomeria japonica*, a species of pine not unlike the *Araucarias* of Norfolk Island and Brazil. When growing luxuriantly, it is highly ornamental, rising from the ground as straight as a larch, and sending out numerous side branches almost horizontally from the main stem, which again droop towards the ground in a graceful and "*weeping*" manner. The wood of the tree has a kind of twisted grain, and possesses great strength and durability.

A great number of the common fruit-trees of the country grow all over the plains and near the side of Canton River. The mango, guava, wangpee (*Cookia punctata*), leechee, longan, oranges, and pumeloes, are the principal kinds. Besides these, there are the cypress, thuja, banyan, and other kinds of fig-trees, and a species of pine, called by the Chinese the *water-pine*, from its always growing by the sides of the rivers and canals. The bamboo, and a sort of weeping willow very much like our own, are also frequently met with. The name which the Chinese give to the latter is the "sighing" willow, coinciding rather curiously with our own term of "weeping," and when taken in connexion with the historical fact of the Jews weeping by the streams of Babylon, and hanging their harps upon the willows, shows that this is regarded as the emblem of sorrow as universally as the dark and sombre pine and cypress are considered in all countries fit companions to the cemetery and churchyard.

The only tree which I met with of very large size in the district of Shanghae, was the *Salisburia adiantifolia*, commonly called the Maiden-hair tree, from the resemblance its leaves bear to a fern of that name. This is one of the plants which the Chinese are fond of dwarfing, and it is consequently often seen in that state in their gardens. Its fruit is sold in the markets in all Chinese towns by the name of "*Pa-Kwo*," and is not unlike dried almonds, only whiter, fuller, and more round. The natives seem very fond of it, although it is rarely eaten by Europeans.

The principal shrubs growing in the Fa-tee Gardens are the *Azalea indica*, *indica alba*, *phœnicea*, *lateritia*, *variegata*, and the yellow *Azalea sinensis*. I may mention in passing, that I found the latter plant wild on the Ning-po hills, so that there is no doubt of its being a genuine Chinese species. The air at this season around Fa-tee is perfumed with the sweet flowers of *Olea fragrans*, and the *Magnolia fuscata*, both of which are grown extensively in these gardens.

Tree pæonies are not natives of the south of China, but are brought down in large quantities every year, about the month of January from the northern provinces. They flower soon after they arrive, and are rapidly bought up by the Chinese to ornament their houses, after which they are thrown away, as they do not thrive well so far south as Canton or Macao, and will not flower a second season.

On the island of Poo-to-san, the *Camellia japonica* grows spontaneously in the woods, where we met many specimens from twenty to thirty feet in height and with stems thick in proportion. The variety, however, was only the well-known single red.

CUTTING HAY FOR STOCK.

It has frequently been asked how cutting hay for stock adds to its nutritive qualities. It is precisely upon the same principle as cutting up meat fine and making a mince of it. There is more or less nutriment in the tougher pieces, and even gristle, if these are cut fine with the chopping knife; and nicely cooked and agreeably seasoned, the dish is eaten with peculiar relish, easily digests, and goes twice as far as in the ordinary method of taking meat in slices; for under such circumstances we reject all that is not tender, juicy, and particularly palatable. In cutting hay all the coarser parts and even straw are made agreeable to the taste of animals, especially if it be cut up and spiced with a little meal, shorts, or bran. Nor have they the power to reject any part when cut up, and as all is more or less nutritious the hay must go further; nor can it be pulled out and wasted as when fed loose. Another important consideration is, an animal can fill its stomach much more easily and readily on cut than uncut food, and can then lie down and ruminate, and rest, allowing the food full time to digest and distribute its strengthening qualities throughout the system, and renovate it for renewed exertions.

AMERICAN FRESH MEATS IN ENGLAND.

Considerable quantities of fresh carcase pork were carried to Liverpool in our packet ships during the past winter, and sold at a large profit in the fresh meat markets of that city. Why could this not be made a good winter business with our city butchers, and such graziers as live in the vicinity of the railroads? The only objection to an extensive business of this kind—ice and cold weather permitting—is, the absence of the right kind of animals to send to the English markets. Such meats as pork, beef, and mutton, saying nothing of poultry of which we could also send hundreds of tons, are worth in the Liverpool and London markets 12 to 18 cents per pound, at all times. And now, duties off, the expense of freight is a mere trifle—a bare per centage of their value. But such meats to be profitable must be good—better in the beef and mut-

ton line than we are accustomed to see generally in our city markets. We may, however, readily get into them, and it only requires that the farmers adopt the best breeds of foreign cattle and sheep now plentifully scattered throughout our country, to produce as fine and desirable meats as the English themselves can do.

In cattle, the Short-Horns, the Herefords, and the Devons possess all the fine qualities for fatting purposes, being the best seen in the English markets; while in sheep, the Southdowns yield the most desirable mutton. They are comparatively plenty in the United States, and of excellent quality, and altogether cheaper here than in England. Indeed we do not know of better investments for our farmers in the extensive grazing districts bordering on railroads and canals, than to obtain animals of these valuable breeds, and go at once into breeding and preparing them for the English markets. As lean stock, if of the right kind, they may be transported to the graziers in the neighborhood of our cities during the fall of the year, and then fed off for a winter market; or, if equally convenient, better fed and fattened at home, and in winter slaughtered and sent by railroad to the cities for exportation.

The experiment of exportation has been tried and found successful; and there will be plenty of buyers who will embark the necessary capital and go permanently into the business. But it will be useless to send poor and half fed meats to England. The carcases must be *fat*, and to be *profitably* fed, they must be of such kind as will take on flesh kindly, fatten rapidly, and show well in market. Such animals will always sell at a round profit; but such too, we are sorry to say, do *not* exist either in our *common* American cattle or sheep. We must resort to the best foreign blood, and their crosses on our native stock, to a high degree for that purpose. We hope to see this branch of husbandry become extensively pursued.

CULTIVATION OF TURNIPS.—No. 6.

Feeding Milch Cows.—In comparing the chemical analogy that exists between the inorganic constituents of the turnip and those of the milk of the cow, it will be seen that this kind of green food is particularly adapted for cows giving milk. By referring to the analyses of the ash, on pp. 299 and 300 of the current volume, it will be observed that turnips are rich in phosphoric acid, which chiefly occurs in combination with lime, thus forming bone-earth, or phosphate of lime. Now milk is also very rich in phosphates, as will be seen by the following tables, from Professor Johnston, and instances are on record where some descriptions of cheese contained more than 60 per cent. of phosphates—the phosphoric acid being nearly all in combination with lime.

According to Professor Johnston, 1,000 parts by weight of cow's milk was composed of

Butter,	27 to 35	
Cheesy matter (casein),	45 " 90	
Milk-sugar,	36 " 50	
Chloride of Potassium, and a little of sodium	1¼	10
Phosphates—chiefly lime,	2¼	
Other salts,	6	
Water,	882½	815
	999¼	1,000

From the above table, it is obvious that the composition of milk varies, so that it is reasonable to suppose that it will be greatly influenced by the food received by the cow; therefore, the farmer, whose only manufacture from milk is butter, would do well to feed his cows on substances that are fatty and rich.

In another table of the analysis of the inorganic constituents of milk given by Professor Johnston, from Haidlen, 1,000 lbs. of milk of two different cows, yielded in pounds of

Phosphate of lime,	2.31	3.44
Phosphate of magnesia,	0.42	0.64
Phosphate of peroxide of iron,	0.97	0.07
Chloride of potassium,	1.44	1.83
Chloride of sodium,	0.24	0.34
Free Soda,	0.42	0.45
	580	6.77

It will be noticed by this table that the quantity of salts left by the milk of different animals somewhat varies. By comparing this table, also, with the tables of the inorganic parts of the turnip, pp. 299 and 300 of the present volume, it will be seen that the turnip contains all the substances that are contained in the salts of the milk.

Different varieties of turnips affect the quantity of milk. For instance, the white kinds cause the cows to produce a far larger supply, but of an inferior quality, as far as butter is concerned, than the yellow varieties. In so great a degree is the quantity of milk larger from the cows on the white, that the supply of butter in the end is larger from the same cows than when they receive the yellows.

On farms where the quality rather than the quantity of milk is regarded, the turnips may be consumed in the fall, when the cows are taken up and housed, on the failure of grass or green feed, and be fed with the softer, more watery, but sweeter sorts, such as the various kinds of whites, tankards, globes, &c. On these, the cows are said to give a larger quantity of milk than on the harder and more solid varieties. Consequently, they are kept on these so long as they will last. The various kinds of yellows may next be given, and in some instances they may be continued until the grass is available again in the spring, and no Swedes (ruta-bagas) need be used; not that there is any objection to them, but that they require a more fertile soil.

An objection has been raised by some to Swedes, from a notion that they "taste" the milk more than other kinds of turnips; but such is not the case. A slight disagreeable flavor, it is true, is sometimes given to milk and butter when the cows are fed on turnips; but this can entirely be removed, by putting in each pan, before pouring in the milk, a pinch or two of saltpetre (nitrate of potash).

The turnip, in the day-time, is usually given to the cows raw, well washed, and sliced; but at night, a good mess of cooked food is preferable, given with as much hay as they will eat, care being taken that it be sweet. Many give sweet straw, which, although not so good as sweet hay, is to be preferred to hay that is in any way inferior or damaged. Of the descriptions of cooked food, of which turnips form a chief ingredient, there are many kinds In Ayrshire, in Scotland, they take a bushel of chaff (cut hay and straw, with the chaff of grain),

and eight or ten sound yellow or Swedish turnips, having the tops and tails carefully taken off, and boil them together four or five hours. To this they add as much water as will allow the hand to move easily through the mass, and then squeeze down the turnips, with three pounds of pea-meal. This is given to the cow in the morning and evening, with as much sweet hay as she will eat up clean five times a day. The butter made from cows fed in this manner is as rich and of as fine flavor as can be produced in winter by any other means. Should the peculiar flavor of the turnip be detected, however, which is not unlikely, a pinch or two of saltpetre, as before observed, may be put into the cream to take it away.

Great precaution must be taken in giving turnips to milch-cows, that the bulbs should be perfectly sound and all decayed leaves removed, as they are sure to impart an unpleasant flavor to the milk. The same precaution also is necessary in regard to hay, which should be perfectly sound, and made from a meadow perfectly free from weeds.

NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee at Albany, on the 11th of November, returns were made from the Agricultural Societies of Seneca, Cortland, Columbia, Livingston, Cayuga, Oneida, Greene, Orange, and Queen's Counties. In the latter Society's Show we notice the following commendable regulation of the butter premiums.

In this county separate premiums are awarded to *girls under twenty-one years of age* for butter, and the competition was very spirited, there being a large number of competitors. It is hoped that other societies will adopt this practice, encouraging the farmers' daughters to become perfect in this most important branch of agricultural industry. Speaking of the exhibitors in this department, it is said, "Although all could not obtain premiums, all gained credit by their labors and gave evidence of ability, that many wives and mothers might be proud of, and that husbands often wish for."

Officers of County Societies are particularly desired to forward to the Agricultural Rooms an account of their Fairs, as requested by Circular of 11th March.

T. M. Burt, of Kinderhook, presented fine specimens of Swaar and Vandervere apples. The Swaars remarkably largeand fine. Gentlemen having choice fruit are desired to exhibit specimens, especially seedlings which are of esteemed varieties.

The Secretary exhibited specimens of a remarkably choice variety of seedling apples, from Jas. M. Ellis's farm, Onondaga Hill. They were delivered to Professor Emmons, and will be drawn and engraved for his work on the Agriculture of the State.

The Secretary reported, that, in pursuance of a resolution of the Board in relation to international exchanges, he had furnished Alexander Vattemare, Esq., the founder of the system of exchanges, sets of Transactions of the Society and other agricultural Works for the Royal Agricultural Society of France, the Minister of Commerce, Chamber of Deputies, Library of the City of Paris, Academy of Science, and Royal Botanic Garden, and a variety of seeds for distribution by the Royal Agricultural Society and Royal Institute. Assurances were received from Mr. Vattemare, that returns would be made of works suited to the library of the Society, and that an interchange of seeds and implements would be continued.

The Minister of Commerce instructed Mr. Vattemare, that "he would very willingly have a public exhibition made of implements and the results of American industry in Paris."

Inventors and manufacturers, who are desirous of extending a knowledge of their inventions, on furnishing models of their articles to the Secretary, will have them forwarded for exhibition in France.

Saluthiel Ellis, of 247 Broadway, New York, presented to the Society his splendid bust of the late *Silas Wright*. The thanks of the Society were tendered to Mr. Ellis for his valuable donation and the Secretary was directed to have the same placed in the rooms of the Society.

A letter was received from Mrs. Clarissa Wright, widow of the late Gov. Wright, informing the Society, in answer to their request to have the original draft of the Address written by her husband placed in the archives of the Society, that "Her profound respect for the Society, and for the reasons expressed for making this request, induces her to put aside the desire to retain this memorial in her own possession, and to give her assent to the request of the Society."

On motion of Mr. Stevens, the following preamble and resolution was adopted:—

Whereas many persons in different parts of the State have received as premiums or otherwise, duplicated copies of the early volumes of the Society:

Resolved, That the Secretary be authorized and directed to exchange late volumes of the Transactions for such duplicated copies, whenever desired by the persons having them.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, *Resolved*, That Prof. J. P. Norton, of Yale College, be invited to deliver an address before the Society, at their annual meeting, on the 3d Wednesday (19th) of January next.

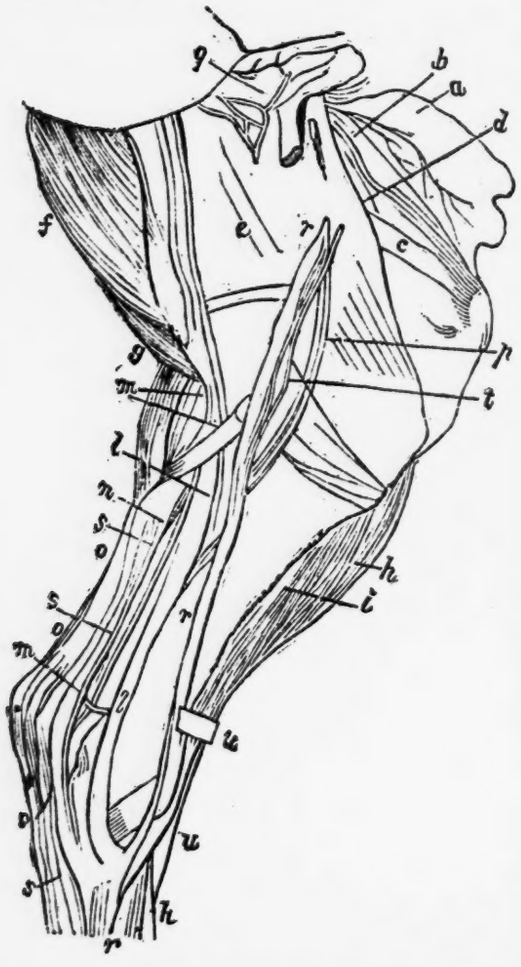
Competitors for premiums at the winter meeting, are desired to forward their statements to the Secretary without delay. Directions for preparing statements will be found in the premium list, from pages 10 to 14. It is hoped each competitor will see the importance of having his papers properly prepared and forwarded in season.

☞ *The next Annual Meeting of the Society* will be held at Albany on the third Wednesday of January, 19th. B. P. Johnson, *Secretary.*

THE HORSE.—No. 7.

Muscles of the Inside of the Thigh.—The muscles of the hind-quarters are more powerful than those of any other part of the frame; therefore provision is made to keep them in their respective places, and thus contribute to their security and strength. When the skin is stripped from any part, we find the muscles are thickly covered by a dense, strong, tendinous coat, whose office is to confine them to their places. This membrane, called by anatomists the *fascia*, is of extraordinary strength in the hind-quarter, and reaches over the whole of the haunch and thigh, and ceases to be found only at the hock, where the muscles themselves cease.

The muscles are strong enough to dislocate and even fracture the bones, when acting in their proper direction; they would be more powerful to do so, if acting out of their proper direction, and therefore require the support and confinement of this tendinous coat. When this coat is dissected off, another is found (which is represented at *a*, in the cut, and turned back) larger than the *fascia*, thicker, and more muscular. It proceeds from the haunch-bones to the stifle upon the fore and outer part of the haunch and thigh, and is intended to assist and strengthen the *fascia*.



MUSCLES OF THE INSIDE OF THE THIGH.—FIG. 90.

Under the part of this binding muscle, shown in the cut at *a*, lies the *straight* muscle, so called from its direct course. It is a large round one, proceeding from the ilium, not far from the socket, into which is inserted the upper bone of the thigh, and runs *straight* down that bone, and hence its name. This muscle is inserted into the bone of the stifle; and it is so situated as to be enabled to exert its great power in the most advantageous way. It is a very prominent muscle, and possesses great strength. It unites with the tendons of the muscle seen at *c* and *b* in the cut, and with the tendons of those seen at *g* and *i*, in the cut, page 240, August No. After this union it terminates in a short and very strong tendon.

At *c*, is seen the *vast* muscle, so called from its great size and strength. This muscle is double, being on both the outside and inside of the thigh, and arises from the outer and inner surface of the bone of the thigh. It is inserted into the upper part of the bone of the stifle, and on both sides of it. This muscle acts at a mechanical disadvantage, as it forms a very slight angle (far from a right angle, which is the direction of greatest power) and of course must be very large to be efficient. It is accordingly a muscle of immense size, and occupies all the forepart of the thigh, from the stifle upwards. It is inserted into the stifle-bone, which is connected by strong tendons with the bone of the leg. From position it is a powerful extending muscle of the thigh and whole leg.

At *d*, is a long, narrow, prominent muscle, arising partly from the bones of the back at the loin, and extending down the thigh. It assists to bind the leg; it turns it inward and gives it a rotary motion; it is besides of service in many of the motions of the hind-leg.

At *e*, is a broad, thin muscle, occupying the greater portion of the surface of the inner part of the thigh and particularly the prominent part of it. It arises from the lower part of the haunch-bone; it proceeds downward and unites with the muscle *d*; and when united, both are inserted into the inner and upper part of the lower bone of the thigh and continued over the stifle. Its power is very great, although it acts at a great mechanical disadvantage. Its office is to bend and rotate or turn the leg inward.

On the inside of the thigh at *f* and *g*, and forming the rear or hind edge of the thigh, lies another important muscle; it is mostly on the inside of the thigh, and makes much of the bulk of the hind part of the thigh Its office is to bend the thigh upward and forward upon the bones of the haunch, and to lift and bend the leg. It is an extending muscle. As it has to raise and bend forward the whole limb it must be a very powerful muscle. It therefore acts with very great mechanical advantage, viz. at a right angle, or nearly so; and is one of the most effectual of the extending muscles.

At *h*, is a muscle whose office is to lift and bend forward the foot. It is called the extending muscle of the foot. At *n*, it becomes a tendon.

At *i*, is a muscle called the *bender* of the leg. Its office is to bend the hock and turn it somewhat inwards. It arises from the thigh-bone, and is inserted by a tendon into the large and small bones of the hock. It is a muscle of considerable power, although disadvantageously situated, both as to its direction and its insertion into the bones of the hock, so near the joint of the hock.

At *l*, is another extending muscle. It is attached to the whole of the splent-bone of the lower thigh; it becomes a tendon, extends in the shape of a tendon over the hock, to which it is attached, downward to the foot, into the coffin-bone of which it is inserted. Its office is to co-operate with the extensor of the foot in raising it from the ground, and bringing it forward under the body. It is the same as the muscle at *m* in the cut page 240 Aug. No..

At *m*, is seen a portion of a very powerful muscle, arising from the head of the upper bone of the thigh and ending in a flat tendon about midway down the lower bone of the thigh and continuing to the hock, into the point of which it is inserted. It extends the hock; it is most advantageously

placed for powerful action, for its direction is almost at right angles. Its effect is increased in proportion to the projection of the point of the hock.

At *n*, is the inside part of the perforating flexor or bending muscle of the foot, described and figured in the cut at letter *o*, pages 240 and 241 Aug. No.

At *o*, is the bending perforated muscle. It has its origin near the lower head of the upper bone of the thigh; becomes tendinous as it passes down the thigh, covering the point of the hock; it assists to extend the hock. From the hock it passes down the hind part of the leg to the pastern or fetlock-joint and the foot. It bends the leg backwards, and lifts the foot upwards and backwards.

At *p*, *q*, and *r*, lie the principal arteries and veins.

At *t* and *s*, are the principal nerves.

At *u*, are the important ligamentous bands which confine the tendons to their places at the bending of the hock.

THE HOCK—This is a most important joint. It consists of six bones, and is very complicated. It answers to the ancle in man. It consists of 1, the *astragalus* (so called by anatomists); the bone of the lower thigh rests on this. 2. The bone of the heel; into this the tendons of many muscles are inserted; it makes the point of the hock. These two rest on two others. 3. The cube-formed bone behind. 4. The large wedge-shaped bone in front. This bone rests on 5 and 6, the two small wedge-shaped bones. These two last and the cube-shaped bone rest on the shank-bone and the splint-bone of the leg.

These bones are all connected together by very strong ligaments, which prevent dislocation, but allow slight motion between them and the surfaces which touch each other and are thickly covered by an elastic cartilage. The weight and stress thrown on the hock is great The thigh-bone comes on to the astragalus in a slanting direction, and the joint between is hinge-like in action, without any side motion; these two bones are confined by strong ligaments. The hock in fact consists of six joints. The six bones are each covered with an elastic cartilage and a membrane producing joint-oil, and have each a slight motion. The joint-oil smoothes the surfaces of the bones where they act on each other, and the bones are all bound together by many ligaments. The weight descending slantingly, concussion is mainly avoided, and the bones diffuse what there may be. The joint has sufficient motion, and is yet so strong as to be secure from dislocation. It is very liable, however, to strains.

We here end the bony and muscular anatomy of the horse; we shall next proceed to his history, and then take up the subject of animal mechanics, in its application to the anatomy, a most important branch of the knowledge of the horse.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE FARMER.

THERE never was a class of people more blessed or more prosperous than the farmers of the United States now are. Their crops are abundant and readily command cash at good prices; while every necessary of life which they wish to purchase, especially manufactured articles, was never so good and so cheap. Then the facilities of transportation and locomotion have been greatly increased and improved, and this is another source of positive benefit to the farmers. With these physical benefits, those of an intellectual and moral kind have kept rapid pace. Books have been cheapened and multiplied incalculably. Schools, especially those of a higher order, have increased—and churches and faithful ministers abound. Do you think of these things as you ought? and are you striving to take advantage of them to improve your moral, intellectual, and physical condition to a greater extent? Those who act wisely will make the most of these great blessings every hour; for they cannot always expect them to be so abundant, and besides, to *improve* them *now* is the *surest* way to *continue* them.

One certain means of effecting improvement among the farmers is what we have heretofore often recommended—the formation of clubs in each neighborhood for weekly evening meetings in the winter. It is not necessary in these to confine yourselves entirely to agricultural discussions, but such things as have a collateral bearing on agriculture may occasionally be profitably introduced; such as the geology, the botany, and the arboriculture of the country; nor should we consider the moral means of improvement of the heart and mind entirely out of place in these evening discussions. But our homily must end.

We have finished another year of our periodical being. Let us be thankful to the Great Author of all things for its many benefits, and look forward with renewed hopes and exertions for a continuation of his favors.

FAIR OF LITCHFIELD CO. AG. SOCIETY.

THE Annual Cattle-Show and Fair of the Litch field County Agricultural Society was held on Litchfield Hill, Ct., on the 29th and 30th of September last, where an immense concourse assembled to celebrate their yearly "harvest-home." The ladies turned out with a profusion of smiles, and a display of divers samples of their handiwork. The specimens of horticultural and vegetable productions also, nearly equalled those of previous years.

A correspondent in speaking of this Show, says:—"Our county now stands higher for its breeds and qualities of Stock, than any other section of the Union. Lemuel Hurlburt, Esq., of Winchester, Messrs. Judd and Blakeslee, of Watertown, and one or two other gentlemen, have done more perhaps than all others ro raise the credit of the county to its present position in this respect. Mr. Hurlbut had upon the ground for exhibition, 10 head of pure Devon cattle, and a more splendid lot I never saw. Mr. Blakeslee introduced 300 Spanish Merino sheep—nearly his whole flock, and a more superior lot was never exhibited. The Blakeslee sheep have taken premiums at the New York State Fair for four years.

Mr. Blakeslee also introduced the largest herd of fine Devon cattle ever before offered for exhibition at any similar Fair in Connecticut; among which were 13 pair of fine matched steers and oxen. Also, one pair of splendid working oxen, which took a $14 premium at the American Institute last year.

The stock exhibited by Mr. Chandler Judd, of Watertown, was worthy of special note, and elicited general praise; but our view of them was too hasty to enable us to particularize."

LETTERS FROM VIRGINIA.—No. 2.

In my last letter I had occasion to advert to the fact that during a few years past, an extensive emigration has been in progress from the Northern and Eastern States to different portions of Virginia, and particularly to the lower or tide-water sections of this ancient Commonwealth. From inquiries which I have instituted in reference to this point since my arrival here, I have ascertained that within the past six or seven years, nearly a quarter of a million of dollars has been invested in the purchase of lands in the single county of Fairfax, one of the smallest counties of the State, situated on its north-eastern boundary, immediately adjacent to the District of Columbia, chiefly by New York and New England men; and that from two to three hundred heads of families have, within that period, become citizens of this portion of the State. This tide of emigration and settlement is still in full flood—and scarcely a month elapses without bringing its quota of enterprising farmers, mechanics and tradesmen, from the "Northern hive" to this attractive region. Most of these people may be regarded as permanent inhabitants; a few, however, "put their hands to the plow, and look back" after a year or two of ineffectual endeavors to surmount the difficulties and discouragements of a new and untried region. Over exertion in agricultural labors during the long summer days—the occasional failure of an important crop or inability to realize from its proceeds a sufficient sum to meet the necessary expenditures of the year—a lonely and secluded residence "far from the busy haunts of men"—home-sickness and misfortunes of various kinds, resulting chiefly from an unwise investment of their funds in the purchase of "cheap lands" unfavorably situated, and requiring too great an outlay of capital and labor to render productive and remunerating—these and similar drawbacks serve now and then to discourage and depress the emigrant, and he abandons his undertaking in despair, and returns to "the flesh-pots of Egypt." But the far greater number become identified and incorporated with the community among which they have cast their fortunes—reclaim speedily the worn-out soils—introduce new and valuable improvements—cause the wilderness literally to "bud and blossom"—erect churches, school-houses, and barns—and availing themselves skilfully of the numerous advantages which the mildness of the climate, the natural fertility of the soil, and the proximity of excellent markets afford, soon attain to affluent circumstances and permanent prosperity in their new homes.

The county of Fairfax, embracing the city of Alexandria and Mount Vernon, is separated from the District of Columbia, on the north-east by the Potomac, which, having its source in the great valley of Virginia, lying between the Blue Ridge and the Alleghanies, cuts its way through the former, and empties itself into the Chesapeake Bay at a point about equidistant from the northern and southern boundary of the State. The Potomac is navigable for sloops and vessels of the highest burden, as far as Georgetown, the western extremity of the district, one mile west of Washington, and some ten miles north of Alexandria. Crossing the river by a spacious covered bridge, four miles north-westerly from Georgetown, you enter at once upon the territory of Virginia. The soil throughout this region consists of an upper stratum of sandy loam resting on a rich and fertile subsoil of red clay, overlying to a considerable depth rocks of gneiss and granite. These underlying rocks frequently make their appearance at the surface, and furnish abundant and valuable materials for buildings, fences, &c. To a great extent, however, they have become disintegrated by the long continued action of the elements, and are rapidly decomposing and mingling with the surface soil. Wherever this soil has been subjected for any considerable period to a judicious cultivation, and properly supplied from time to time, with fertilizing manures, its products, as I observed in my first letter, have been found to equal those of the richest portions of the river counties of your State, and even in many instances of Western New York and Long Island. A very large proportion of these lands has, however, long suffered and become seriously deteriorated, either from exhaustion, by incessant croppings without rotation, or insufficient manuring, or from utter neglect, from the impossibility of taking into cultivation the whole or indeed any considerable portion of the large estates, often comprising from five to ten thousand acres, of the wealthy proprietors. In the former case, a judicious application of labor and capital is all that is requisite to the complete restoration of the soil to its natural fertility, and this process is easily effected within at most two or three years, and at a cost not exceeding five dollars an acre; and, in the latter, lands which have become covered with pines and other forest trees, and the cultivation of which has for years been wholly abandoned, may be reclaimed and converted into arable, meadow, or pasture-land, as may be required, at an expense not exceeding ten or fifteen dollars per acre.

The crops which have been found to succeed best in this neighborhood, are wheat, rye, oats, Indian corn, and potatoes. The average yield of wheat may be set down at twelve bushels per acre, and that of corn at thirty-five. Where lime, plaster, and ashes have been liberally bestowed, and the requisite attention paid to the cultivation in all its stages, these crops will be proportionably augmented in amount, and twenty bushels of wheat, and from seventy-five to one hundred of corn per acre, may safely be relied upon, from lands of average productiveness. On the river-bottoms from two to three tons of hay and clover are annually realized.

The immediate proximity, by means of good roads, to one of the best and most constant markets in the Union—that of Washington—the salubrity and mildness of the climate—winter being practically almost unknown, and the numerous facilities afforded by an equable and steady temperature for the raising and fattening of stock of every description—these circumstances, together with the fertility of the soil, and the low prices at which farms can be obtained, present substantial inducements for emigration to those who, from any reason, are inclined to change their domicil. That this portion of the Union is eminently conducive to health—that its balmy breezes and invigorating temperature are especially favorable to those constitutions which have any tendency to pulmonary complaints, the experience of many who have sought and found in this

vicinity, a renovated system, and a complete restoration of physical strength and vigor, affords abundant testimony.

I would, by no means, advise the Northern farmer who is already comfortably settled, and in prosperous circumstances, to "pull up stakes" for the purpose of trying to better his condition, here or elsewhere. I feel no hesitation in recommending all whose health or circumstances require a change of climate, or of place—all who have contracted the prevailing fever for Western emigration—and all who are in search of an advantageous investment of their surplus means, to spend a few weeks in this delightful region; and if, upon a careful and deliberate survey of its advantages and disadvantages, they should be of opinion, as I am, that they "might go further and fare worse," I can venture to assure them a cordial welcome to the Old Dominion.

A NEW YORKER.

MEDLEY HOGS.

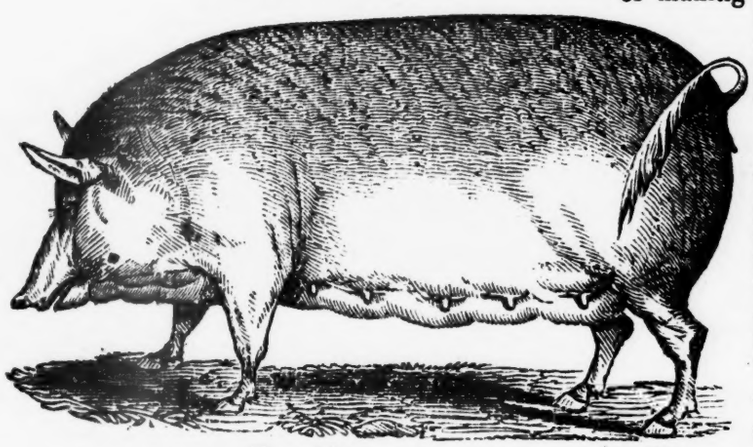


FIG. 91.

THE above cut is a portrait of one of my breeding sows of the Medley breed. It was sketched by Mr. Van Zandt, while running in pasture, and selected by him as a fair specimen of the breed. She was one year old at the time he made the sketch.

In forming this breed of pigs, two distinct or different systems have been chiefly pursued. The first by means of crossing the various breeds so as to supply the faults or defects of the one by the merits or perfections of the other; the latter, or that which has been by uniting the perfections of the same kind, by selecting and continuing to breed from the best and most perfect animals in the same family line, or blood. By crossing with judgment, improvement may be effected, especially in what relates to bone, size, hide, or coat, the bettering of particular points or parts, and constitution.

It would appear, therefore, that by crossing and the careful selection of the most perfect animals of the same breed or kind, with due attention to constant good feeding, the improvement of live stock may be carried to great perfection.

It is folly to attempt to raise superior animals of any breed without the aid of good and sufficient keep at all seasons, with suitable shelter and warmth, both for young and old stock, so that they may never decline in flesh or be checked in their growth.

A difference of opinion may always be expected to exist, as to form and color that constitute beauty in animals; but it cannot be denied, that the grand object should be a profitable produce. Every farmer should be desirous of *keeping up* the good qualities, if not improving his animals, and let this be determined as it may, *perfection* can only be obtained by a selection of breeders. If a greater or less size is required, stronger propensities, or greater and more perfect health and vigor, the object must be attained by selecting and pairing the males and females which possess in the greatest degree the requisite qualities, whether crossing be resorted to or breeding in-and-in.

After a perfect stock has been attained, how is it to be continued? This seems to be the grand question, and it only can be answered by duly attending to their qualities and habits, when selecting breeders, by which these qualities are to be sustained.

The long agitated question, whether large or small sized animals are the most profitable or pay the most money for the food they consume, is not yet fully decided; nor is it probably capable of being easily ascertained, on account of the difficulty of making experiments. From my own observation and experience, I am inclined to give the preference to the smaller or medium sized, as most profitable, especially near villages and cities.

The basis on which I commenced the improvement and formed the "Medley breed," was the little improved Chinese hog, a short-bodied, small, compact, chubby animal, of a spotted black and white color—too small for the barrel, but an excellent pig for fresh pork. Their general weight at one year old was about 200 or 250 lbs.

The first cross I made was with the "grass breed," so called; a hog of similar character, but of a larger size.

The second cross was with a "Leicester" boar, which increased their length and size of bone. I now bred from my own boars, selecting those that appeared to possess or approach the nearest to certain points which I had in view, viz.—small, short heads with a hollow or dishing face—small, upright ears—deep, capacious, long bodies—a small short leg, and above all, of a thin skin and a white color.

After breeding in-and-in, a few years, in order to get more length and wash out the dark spots that would occasionally appear, I crossed them again with a son of a boar imported by Mr. McIntosh, crockery merchant, of this city, called the "Derbyshire breed," a hog of immense length of body and great size, and bone sufficient to sustain his weight (650 lbs.) By this cross, I lost in a measure the rotundity of the ham, and increased the length of the nose, but with a dip of the "Neapolitan" blood, which are famous for a large, round ham in proportion to their size, I have, as you will perceive by the portrait, regained that point, but the nose or face is still too long. In order to obviate or improve the face of the "Medley," I sent to the East for a "Mackay" boar, but on finding so many other objectionable points, I did not use him, although a thrifty pig. Since then, I have bred from my own stock, until I may say it is thoroughly established as a breed, characteristic throughout. On looking at the different litters, now in my pens, they resemble each other so nearly that if they were all of the

same age one would suppose they were of the same litter.

The foregoing is a true history, and I think fully establishes the claim to "Medley," a breed mostly made by *crossing*.

This breed of hogs are not only valuable in themselves, but are valuable to cross with the larger, slow-growing sort. As now established rather under medium size, could probably be made to weigh at one year old, from 250 to 300 lbs. I have had them weigh, with ordinary keep, as store-hogs, from 184 to 186 lbs., at nine months old. They are tough, hardy, and prolific, having generally nine and ten pigs the first litter—good nurses and careful mothers. Color white, with an occasional dark spot on skin, and sometimes with dark hair spots; skin rather thin—hair soft and not very thick, which would indicate tenderness, but it is not so. Head medium size, nose or snout rather too long and straight to please the eye—ears small and standing up—neck rather thin, but deep in the shoulder—good length of body—back straight and generally even in width—broad across the hips—full and well let down in the flank—tail so small that it sometimes withers, dies, and a portion falls off.

In form and general characteristics this breed, with the exception of the nose, approach the Suffolk breed imported by Mr. Stickney, of Boston. Their flesh is firm, juicy, and tender—hams meaty, round and large in proportion to the carcase. They are docile and quiet, good grazers, and can be fattened at any age from the teat up. They are much sought for by our butchers, for fresh pork, and will command the highest price in our market.

C. N. Bement.

Albany, Oct., 1847.

SIX SAMPLES OF BACK-JERSEY FARMERS.

Sample No. 1.—This man is located on an old cultivated farm, where rich people lived and died before him, but whether they became so by farming is rather doubtful. He is a specimen of mechanic turned farmer—has had extensive opportunities of observation—is a man of tolerable natural parts—lives in one of the best residences of the neighborhood, with every convenience around him, and sometimes raises good crops on a not very favorable soil. Yet, scarcely any one thinks this man makes a living from his farm. An annuity gets the credit of his success. His frequent drafts upon the extra manure and ashes of the neighboring village, show that he is disposed to listen to the admonitions of his agricultural papers. No doubt he has a great satisfaction in his farming operations, over that man who never sees in the results attained, the fruits of his own thought and study—but only the same routine through which his fathers passed before him. One would think, that with such a home, in such a place, farming must be attractive, if anywhere, and afford ample room for exercising all the energies, both mental and physical. But this farmer says he cannot make his farm support him; but why, does not appear. Most young people would be willing farmers, such as he, provided the annuity were also pouring in its steady stream to make all snug and square at the end of the year. But all have not that to make farming tolerable. Let us look at one who has not.

Sample No. 2.—Here too we have a "book-farmer," made out of a merchant, of dashing ways in early life, left in possession of a few thousands collected by a "keen" father, cut off by death in the midst of his rapid accumulations. The son seemed ambitious of uniting the father's character of a man of business to that of a man of fashion. The time and means required for the latter, soon swallowed up the former. Matters were then in such a train, that the merchant became the gentleman farmer. It had also become necessary that some personal labor and attention should be given, to keep affairs in motion. Ignorant of his new business, he turned to the agricultural periodicals just then beginning to figure prominently among American publications. He stood out as the prominent book farmer of his region, and the results of his operations were pointed to as conclusive evidence of the uselessness of book knowledge on this subject. He could not make things go—so his land was let out to others for cultivation, and his own attentions given to horse-dealing and other like "genteel" occupations.

Sample No. 3.—This farmer is one who knows what toil, care, and labor are, and is on a farm which needed them in no small quantity. Situated on a "bottom," covered with round, or river stone, in immense numbers, and nearly useless for fencing—for no two of them would scarcely lie in a heap together. Enormous rows of these bear witness to his industry in by-gone days. With no great share of book-learning nor any extra respect for either the demands of religion or morality, joined to the most determined resolution to acquire wealth, this man has succeeded. Yes, he has got rich, but at what a fearful sacrifice. A young family of uncultivated minds or manners exhibit his whole-souled devotion at the shrine of Mammon. If success in farming requires such as this, may the young man say, then be it far from me. Young and inexperienced minds reason from such cases, that it is the tendency of the business to produce such characters. And it is true that too many such coarse specimens of human nature are to be found among farmers. But we pass on to another.

Sample No. 4.—Here now we have a farmer who might attract some to his business by his exhibition of so much apparent leisure, although they might wish to apply it to nobler uses. He is what has been termed the "laziest man in creation,"—but the world do not always bestow their epithets impartially, so we will make considerable allowance. This sample of our farmer does not seem to think that agriculture affords full scope, for the exercise of all his powers. He is a politician. His country claims not only "a single eye," but both of them, a great deal of the time, in his estimation. He appears to think farmers are just the proper material for legislators, and is said to have threatened party leaders with a secession and exposure, if they failed to recognise this important truth much longer, in his case. This brought matters to a crisis, and he was sent to the State councils, for little else, that the public could see, than to expose his deficiencies, to his own shame and confusion. Of course, no very signal success attended his farming operations, and had it not been for some special advantages, serious delinquencies might have happened. It is reckoned

no one ever felt very strongly impelled towards an agricultural life by his example. He has not confidence in his own business. Why should others? To be a good farmer is not a height sufficient for his aspirations. Why should others grade theirs lower?

Sample No. 5.—This is one of a class, the very antipodes of the last, and altogether too much disposed to rest contented with his business, as far as it will permit him. He "vegetates" upon a farm, where some one started a course of tillage, and he keeps it going for better or worse, despite of all suggestions for improvement from any quarter. The "vis inertiæ" has strong hold of this man. He seems to luxuriate in the very monotony of his life, and looks upon all who would disturb it as troublers and tormentors. The doctrine of human progress would find but little favor with him, were he ever to hear of it. In how much does this farmer differ from the vegetable he tills, or the cattle upon which he tends? They eat and drink and sleep; and eat and drink and sleep again—and so does he. What a life, says the youth, as he surveys this repulsive specimen of tillers of the soil. Can it be that the business nourishes such a disposition of mind? I will have none of it. Give me something where there is room for the application of ever increasing stores of knowledge, and expanding intellect, for I would always be a learner.

Sample No. 6.—This is a farmer whose business seems entirely too much for him. He is ever after it, and to observers presents the appearance of one who had lost a day or two in the earliest part of his life, and never been able to regain it. While reaping one crop, the seed of another is waiting for the soil—and the soil for its preparation. Rules and system, he has none. Everything makes its own rule. The successive portions of his business *crowd* in one after another, *pushing* themselves into notice, and *demanding* attention. The men can hardly fail sometimes to wonder what has got into matters, thus to insist on all being done at once. It does not seem so with his next neighbor. Winter is a very convenient season in his estimation, in order to enable him to overtake the rest of his brother farmers, and start anew with them every spring.

But these few samples will answer for this time, and in them we have some of the stones of that foundation upon which rests the common opinion, that agriculture is just the business for all the lower grades of intellect. The agricultural periodicals are the only sources which many have from which to make up a juster opinion. Their own neighborhoods will not prevent them. A. R. D.

How to Make Rusks.—Take 7 eggs well beaten; new milk ½ pint; melted butter ¼ lb.; yeast ¼ pint; sugar 3 oz.; and beat the whole well together, with as much flour gradually added as will make a very light paste. Let it rise before the fire for half an hour; then add a little more flour; form the mass into small flattened loaves or cakes five or six inches wide; and bake moderately. When cold, cut them into slices the size of rusks, and put them into the oven again to brown a little. This makes a nice tea-cake when hot; and when seasoned with caraway-seed, it is good to eat cold.

DECOMPOSITION OF MANURES IN THE SOIL.

My attention has been called to this subject by the report in your September number of a meeting of the New York Farmers' Club at Greenport. In that report are some statements quite opposed to what has hitherto been considered true, of the decomposition of manures in the soil. If *every particle* of manure, as there stated, has an *upward tendency*, the practice of the best farmers in this and other countries has been entirely wrong. With all due deference to the gentlemen whose remarks are there reported, I must express the opinion that such an unqualified assertion is not advisable upon this point.

In the first place, the fact seems to have been overlooked that all manures contain inorganic substances, which are neither volatilized by heat, nor readily soluble in water; those which on some soils produce the greatest effect, are almost entirely inorganic. With regard to the organic part of manures, there can be no doubt that in certain cases a portion of the gases evolved during decomposition may escape. This would be peculiarly large during a dry season when the evaporation is great and at the same time the progress of decomposition rapid. Ordinarily, however, decomposition, in a substance covered by a sufficient layer of earth to exclude the air almost entirely, goes on with exceeding slowness. This is not the case with large masses of animal or vegetable matter, but applies in the case of manures, which are usually disseminated either in small fragments or powder through the whole soil. The evolution of gases from the common manures is very gradual, so much so that in most seasons but little that is valuable would escape in any way, as all of the gases and soluble salts would enter into new combinations, or be taken up by the roots, either before reaching the surface, or before descending beyond the reach of the plant. The quantity lost by evaporation would vary with the season; in a long continued drought much would come up from below. In some parts of South America, during the dry season, a saline incrustation is formed over the surface of the earth, left by the evaporation of water, which contained the salt matter in solution. On light, sandy soils, the tendency during dry weather would be to evaporation, but during an ordinary season much more would sink with the water descending from the surface.

Little can be drawn from the fact that grave-yards are sometimes very rich. So far as my observation extends, this is only the case in those very old yards, where the ground has been many times spaded over, and where the whole soil is filled in consequence with decaying animal and vegetable matter. I have known instances of burial-grounds of several hundred years' standing, which showed no symptoms of special richness. At the depth to which graves are generally dug, decomposition is slow; and it is not likely that much of the gas evolved ever reaches the surface; it is more likely to be absorbed by water and descend to the nearest level.

Fish is a species of manure which becomes putrescent with great rapidity, and if only covered by a slight layer of earth it is certainly probable that much of its value would escape upward in dry

weather; it might therefore be advisable to cover it a little more effectually than common manure. In Scotland it is the practice to make a compost of fish, covering the heap thoroughly with earth. This compost is especially adapted to light sandy land, because the plant finds its nourishment immediately, without waiting for decomposition, which decomposition in such soils is always accompanied by a loss in one direction or the other.

I think that in this climate, where droughts are unfrequent, the general tendency of manures is to sink rather than rise, on all lands where the outlet of water is beneath the surface.

It is well known, that in many cases the surface-soil becomes exhausted, so as to bear very miserable crops, while the subsoil is rich. I have seen analyses of a soil and subsoil from a field where lime had been heavily applied for many years; the subsoil contained the greatest quantity of lime, showing indisputably that the lime had sunk. It is said that whole districts in Virginia, where the surface-soil was long since exhausted by continued tobacco-cropping, may be at once renovated by deep plowing. If every particle, or if a large portion of the fertilizing ingredients of the soil rose, these things could not be. Instances might be multiplied, but these are probably sufficient.

I have not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with either of the gentlemen whose names are mentioned in your report, but trust that these remarks on a subject so interesting to the farmer may be received as they are meant, for an effort to arrive at truth. JOHN P. NORTON.

Analytical Laboratory, Yale College, Oct., 1847.

LONG ISLAND FARMING.

IN my last I proposed noticing some other farms in this neighborhood. I shall not, however, tax your patience and that of your readers very largely this time. I intend to notice only the farm of Mr. Richard Sammis, on West Neck. Mr. Sammis has about 300 acres of land, and annually cultivates about 30 acres with corn, the same quantity of wheat and oats, the balance being kept in grass. His rotation of crops is the same as that practised on Lloyd's Neck. Mr. Sammis was the first farmer in this neighborhood that used lime to any extent. He has used it several years, and always with good effect, and this in the face of the common belief, that it did no good. I will give your readers the benefit of Mr. Sammis' experience in the use of lime. He says that he prefers to apply it in the fall, winter, or spring, as is most convenient, on land that is to be plowed for corn, at the rate of 100 bushels per acre. He thinks that it wants vegetable matter to act upon, as he tells me that he had a piece of three acres in a field from which he had taken off a crop of oats, and in which the weeds had grown up thick and strong. Previous to plowing the field, he spread on 100 bushels of lime per acre and plowed it under in the month of August. In September following, at the time of sowing his wheat, he plowed the balance of the field, treated it in every respect as he did the three acres adjoining, and at the time of harvest, the weedy land was much more abundant in its yield.

Mr. Sammis thinks that by an application of lime at the rate above named, once in four or five years, with proper attention to making and preserving manure, the farmer here could get and keep his land in excellent condition for cropping without the heavy expense of the New York stable-manure that is now incurred, to keep it up. I think his opinion is worthy of consideration, for he is a most successful, energetic, and practical farmer. There are many other farms on West Neck that are worthy of notice, but the system of managing them is the same as that of Mr. Sammis, and the Lloyd's Neck farmers described in my former communication.

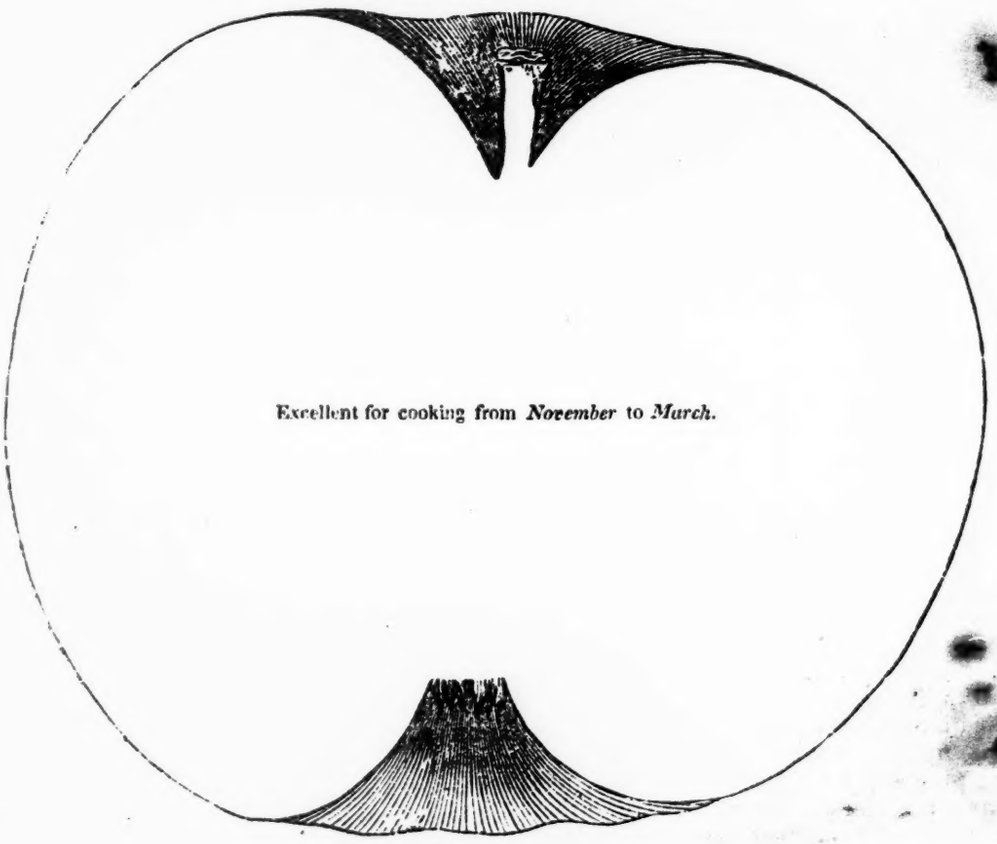
West Neck lies between Huntington and Cold Spring Harbors, and the soil similar to that of Lloyd's Neck, except that it is more rolling and hilly and contains more gravel. The amount of grain raised per acre, is but little if any short of that of Lloyd's Neck.

Our system of raising corn is somewhat different from that recommended and practised by the late Judge Buel. I like it much the best for our land, the difference being mostly in the manner of tilling the crop. Judge Buel discarded the plow and used the cultivator entirely, on his light land. That might answer for him, but we prefer the plow. At the first and second working, we commence by going twice in a row (our corn is generally planted four feet apart each way), turning the furrow from the hill, plowing deep enough to break up and tear to pieces the sod, and hoeing it without hills. In a few days we turn the earth towards the hills, always plowing both ways through the rows, and continue to plow as often as we have time. Some use the cultivator, the last time, to complete the work of pulverizing the sods and to make the land more level than the plow leaves it. I suppose the followers of Judge Buel will question the propriety of this system, and argue that the breaking of the sod disturbs the corn-roots; but that is not so. We commence as soon as we can see the corn-rows across the field, and by the time that the corn gets up enough for the roots to run within the reach of the plow we turn the furrow towards the hill. By this means, the sod becomes entirely pulverized and decomposed, and is ready to impart its full benefit to the roots. Hence I contend that where corn is planted on a stiff sod, and the soil contains any loam, unless the plow is used, no such benefit will be derived. I have seen fields that were planted with corn the year previous and the sod not disturbed. In the spring following, in plowing across the old furrows, they were so little decomposed that they retained their form almost entire, except the transverse cutting they received by the operation of plowing between the corn. I have also seen stiff sod plowed in April, that received one or two subsequent plowings for potatoes, and at the time of planting, in June, where scarcely a trace of the sod was left. These facts, with others that have come under my observation, convince me that where corn is planted on sod, and it is desired to give it the full benefit of that sod, it should have deep and repeated plowings; and if by the time that the corn-roots extend beyond the hills the sod will be sufficiently decomposed. G. P. LEWIS.

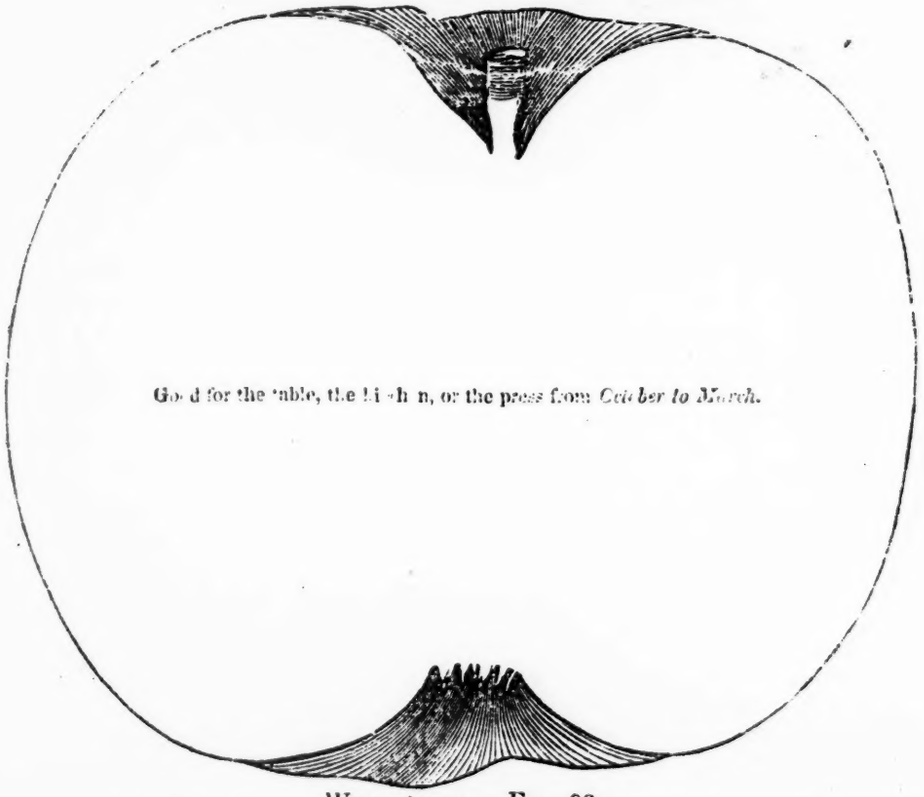
Huntington, Sept. 15th, 1847.

HE that will thrive must rise at five;
He that has thriven may sleep till seven.
Old Saying.

CHOICE VARIETIES OF APPLES.



GLORIA MUNDI.—FIG. 92.



WINE-APPLE.—FIG. 93.

GLORIA MUNDI.—This imposing apple, which is sometimes called "Monstrous Pippin," according to Coxe, originated on Long Island, N. Y.; but according to others it was originally brought from the State of Maine. Its large size renders it an object of popular regard, sometimes weighing twenty to thirty ounces. Its skin is yellow, marked with bright spots or dots; the outline round; stem

short; and the eye bushy. Its flesh is juicy and sprightly, and is admirable for cooking, though not profitable, from its liability to fall prematurely.

WINE-APPLE.—This fine apple, according to Landreth, is well known in the Philadelphia markets. It is unusually large and attractive from its beautifully fair and handsome appearance. The outline is round, rather flattened at the poles; and the prevailing color red, shaded and spotted with yellow. The stalk is quite short, never rising to the crown of the fruit, which is occasionally of a russet hue. The calyx is large and deeply-seated. It is equally adapted to the table, the kitchen, or the press. The habit of the tree is open, the growth handsome and large.

REVIEW OF JULY NUMBER OF THE AGRICULTURIST.

Transplanting Cabbages.—There is no more need of two b's in that word, than there is of two g's in wagon, or *ough* in plow, and if it is not according to Johnson and Webster, it is according to common sense. Let us take every lawful opportunity to reform the barbarous orthography of our language. [We pass our correspondent over to the editor of the Anglo-Saesun for reformation in this particular.] But, about the *cabage*. Put no manure on the ground at all in the season of planting. Plow or dig the ground intended for planting in the previous autumn, and bury long manure deep and abundant. In the spring plow less deep and harrow fine, and after the plants are set, put a good coat of ashes between the rows—not too near, and you will have *cabage* heads bigger than your own! *Too much* hoeing will spoil the growing plants—mind that. *Twice a day* though is not *too much*.

How to Make good Vinegar.—These directions are all very good as far as they go; but what is wanted is a plain recipe for those that have no cider to begin with. The German mode will not answer, because, "corn spirit" will be read to mean, common country whiskey, and of that, one to three of water will be nearer the mark. When the vinegar won't come, leach it slowly day after day through a common nail keg filled with clean shavings of some sweet wood, or clean straw, or small twigs. It is the exposure to the common atmosphere that causes the liquid to absorb oxygen enough to become acetic acid—which is a healthy condiment. Muriatic acid, which is so much sold as, and for vinegar, is not so. This is a small item in domestic economy, but a very important one. Don't forget it.

The Barberry-Bush not Injurious to Grain.—This article is not proof that this bush is always harmless. I have no doubt but those who believe in its blighting influences are partly correct; but that influence is very limited. There are many other bushes blighting Connecticut farms fully as bad as this blue-law proscribed bearer of a very healthy fruit. "Woodman, spare that tree."

Patent Self-Acting Cheese-Press.—My wife says she must have one—that those which we saw the other day in your store are so neat she would be almost willing to have one of them in the "square room." I have tried hard to persuade her that they are nothing but one of our own "Yankee notions," and will be constantly getting out of repair, but she says she knows better, and so I give up.

Mode of Draining Sink-Holes, &c.—These are not "sink-holes" as I understand them. In all cavernous limestone regions, as for instance in Kentucky, there are numerous deep depressions in the surface of extensive level tracts, where the earth has apparently and in fact settled away and run down into a cavity in the rocks below. These basin-like "sink-holes" vary in size from one to a hundred feet deep, and with sides sometimes too steep to climb. They continue to be "sink-holes" for surface water until the outlet becomes choked by a very common practice of making them receptacles for all the trash in their vicinity, when they fill up and make an unsightly and unhealthy pool of water. I notice the article because I like to call things by their right names.

The Domestic Flora of China.—I hope you will continue these interesting extracts from this capital work. They will be read with pleasure and profit.

The Garden Engine.—Cannot those very useful articles be made in a plain substantial manner at a less price? Some of us who live in the —— Oh I forgot. We are incog. Well, some gardeners would like an engine, but cannot really afford to spend $40 or $50 for one. A lower priced article would suit better and sell faster. [They have been made at lower prices repeatedly, but have never given satisfaction. A good, strong, enduring machine cannot be made and sold for less than the above.]

Northern Plows for the South.—There is no part of the United States where so much plowing is done with positive poor plows, as in the cotton region. There are several reasons why Northern plows are not more used. One is, they are not known. Another is, that some of the worst articles of Yankee humbug that the cheating ingenuity of that universal 'cute nation could contrive, have been made "expressly for the Southern market," especially by manufacturers on the Upper Mississippi and Ohio Rivers—"good enough for niggers," until it is no wonder that the planters will not venture to purchase except it is from some one personally known to them, and who has reputation for giving an honest recommendation of the article offered them. Any man who could successfully introduce the good improved implements of the North, would confer a lasting benefit upon the Southern planters, and do deeds of humanity to the laborers and teams. It would be worthy the effort of any benevolent minded individual, to make a pilgrimage through all the Southern States to recommend Northern plows and other labor-saving implements.

The Strawberry Question.—I wish to put on record another fact, that there is a vast deal of humbug in these days about "new and valuable varieties of new seedling strawberries."

Trees and Shrubs for Towns.—One of the most important articles that could be written upon this subject would be, how to make one half of the trees that are set out in towns live; for it is a noted fact in my observation that they do not, and in fact will not, until men study common sense while transplanting them.

A Cheap Farm-House.—I have often commented upon these plans of buildings published in agricultural papers, and here repeat, that nothing with

which the pages of the American Agriculturist are filled, is of more important usefulness. Not that I like this plan altogether, but I like friend Solon's object in giving it. But of all contrivances for a frame, this one beats every Yankee notion I ever heard of. Is it possible that he is serious in recommending a two-story house to be built "*without a tenon or mortice in the whole frame.*" The idea is preposterous and requires an endorser. Can you, Mr. Editor, give any guarantee that our old friend is serious? "Balloon," indeed! And pray, do they often take the same course in a high wind? I would as soon think of living in a "cob-house." But that I know the author of this *cheap farm-house* to be possessed of a fund of good nature, I would not have treated his *balloon* with so much *gas*. I hope he will reply seriously and tell us upon his word if he would really recommend such a frame, or if he actually builds such himself. There must be an immense saving of labor, but I fear it is lost in durability. Let us *down east* barbarians have light from the West. [Mr. Robinson will please answer our captious Reviewer, and if he chooses in so doing to blow him higher than any balloon ever ascended, we shall not cry.]

Preservation of Peach-Trees from Borers.—Until some way under heaven can be discovered as a preventive besides the slow process of digging them out, they will continue to bore and *be a bore* to a great many peach-tree owners. It is too much like the fellow's "bed-bug powder." The trouble of catching the bugs and pinching them on the back of the neck to make them open their mouths to take the powder, is only equaled by catching the worms with a "long brad-awl." So if Mr. Ward's plan of expelling them by sulphur will prove effectual, it is a most invaluable recipe. Who else has or will try it?

A Bog-Cutter.—Perhaps it is because I was "born amongst the bogs" that I am so stupid that I cannot understand this explanation. The drawings may be altogether sufficient to explain to a mechanic its structure, provided that he has previously seen one of the machines. But I have yet to find one who can build me a cutter from this description.

Improved Candle-Wicks.—All editors are considerably in the habit of publishing a *considerable* quantity of just such recipes as this, in which it is recommended to steep a considerable quantity of candle-wicks in a considerable quantity of lime-water, in which a considerable quantity of saltpetre has been dissolved. Who can learn anything useful from such nonsense? Thousands will understand "lime-water" to mean the common well water of a limestone region of country. But the considerable quantity of saltpetre will be variously estimated. That must have been a considerable quantity which blew up seven stores in our good city of New York a few years since. No doubt a "more perfect combustive" was then "insured," too indefinite for practical purposes entirely.

To S. H. R.—Cranberries will not flourish so far south as Virginia, and it will be labor lost to try experiments. They are decidedly a Northern fruit. About latitude 40° is as far south as they are found in perfection. But the silk-worm loves the sunny clime, and if you will only practise upon what you preach, may you be made happier thereby yourself, and be the means of teaching many others to be so by your example.

How to Make Good Tea.—If men can be induced to build rain-water cisterns by recommending rain-water for tea, then some good may arise from tea-drinking. I have no doubt that rain water is far more healthy, and when properly filtrated, is as pure as the running spring. Then why is it not more used? In numerous places, a supply of water could be had from the roofs of farm-buildings, at one-half the expense that it is obtained at from deep wells. I hope every tea-drinker in the country will become perfectly convinced that good tea can only be made from rain-water, and then cisterns will become fashionable. Let the Canton Tea Company have it printed upon all their labels, that good tea can only be made with purified rain-water, and they may do good enough to counterbalance a share of the evil chargeable to them for introducing so much "yarb tea" into the country. But give me pure water and I will give all my share of the green leaf to the "lovers of strong drink."

Boys' Department.—Let it be a lesson to boys and girls too, never to speak harshly, nor treat unkindly, even a dog; a good lesson, which conveys so much of my own feelings, that I will close my present article with it fresh in my mind as well as to all those who read the comments of the American Agriculturist by a REVIEWER.

TO TRANSPLANT LARGE TREES.

I HAVE these taken up with roots as large as possible and with as little injury as I can; with a sharp saw, or pruning-knife, according to the size of the roots, the bruised ends are nicely cut off, which enables them, when planted, to throw out numerous little rootlets from the ends, thus giving a quick and vigorous growth. The holes were dug 4 to 6 feet in diameter, and 1½ to 2 feet deep, a good layer of soft rich mould was then laid on the bottom for the roots to rest on, and filled in with the best soil to the top, and the earth carefully laid up somewhat rounding about the trunk. I have set thousands of trees in my life, and wherever I have pursued this method, with proper attention afterwards, I have rarely lost one. Let every one remember that a fruit or shade-tree, well set out and started to grow, is worth at lest from one to five dollars the moment its life is secure; and all due pains in planting is the strictest economy in the end. L.

AMERICAN FOREST-TREES.

NOTICING the parks of England in the March number, Vol. 1, of the Agriculturist, you remark with much severity on the "spirit of ruthless destruction" existing among the new settlers of this country in destroying their noble forest-trees. I am aware of the general want of good taste in many of the American cultivators in selecting shade-trees, by the appearance of which their farms and estates would be ornamented and rendered more valuable, as is abundantly seen in the naked and cheerless aspect of too many otherwise beautiful homesteads all over the country. Let me however give a word of

apology in this matter, and set the American people right before you.

When clearing up the original forests, the trees stand tall and thick, and usually without branches to the height of 30, 40, or 50 feet. Seldom, if ever, are any found which, standing singly or in small groups, would be either graceful or ornamental objects in the landscape, or useful as shade, or for timber. When left thus alone, as has oft-times been done by those whose taste would gladly retain them, denuded as they become of the shade of their fallen comrades, dried up in their roots by the scorching sun, and deprived of their usual and abundant moisture, they soon dwindle and die, and within a year or two stand a naked, unsightly monument of their former grandeur, or cut off from the natural support of other trees in the surrounding forest, they become the target of tempests, and with their tall tops acting as a tremendous lever-power upon their roots, are prostrated to the earth, upheaving with them large masses of soil which it is laborious to replace. Young and thrifty trees, too, share the same fate, owing to the sudden change their life is subjected to in removing the great body of the forest. It is true that occasional exceptions are found in an overgrown and enormous elm or oak, whose prodigious bulk and strength have long overshadowed its inferiors, and which, when left alone, will live on and flourish for ages in its original grandeur, and still increase in its beauty and size; but in heavy forested land this is seldom the case. These are the reasons why so few of the magnificent trees which so plentifully abound in the thick forests are found in the open fields of our farms, and particularly in the new settled portions of the country.

These remarks, however, will not apply to the large tracts of open "bottoms" that lie on rivers, the timbered islands of our prairies, or the beautiful oak and walnut openings of the West and South. There nature has been lavish of her bounties, and in the grandeur and majesty of her trees no country can excel it; and often has my admiration been excited in gazing at the colossal stature and graceful outline of those forest-monarchs, and my feelings gratified at the good taste of the proprietors who had left them thus "alone in their glory." In general the Americans are a tree-loving people, and no one can travel through the old settled portions of the United States, without remarking the prevalence of shade-trees and the singular beauty of the forests; much greater in their variety and vastly richer in their luxuriance than those of Europe, if the testimony of its own people can be received. What country on earth can exhibit more varied and luxuriant shade and ornamental trees than are found in the towns and villages of our Northern States, or occasionally on the extensive farms and plantations of the West and the South? England is a country which has been inhabited by a highly civilized race for two thousand years; America a little over a tenth part of that time. Her soils are owned and occupied by a highly refined and luxurious people, who lavish millions in the gratification of taste in natural as well as artificial objects; and in the transmission of their hereditary estates, they have cultivated and preserved with pious care, those relics of past ages which they were early taught to venerate and esteem—while we, the *tillers* as well as *owners* of our soil, have *utility* first and *ornament* last in view.

I should perhaps have taken no exception to your remarks on this subject; but as I have often observed those of a like tenor both from foreigners and from native Americans, I have ventured to put the matter right before you. I ought perhaps to say, before closing, that until I was experienced in the subject, I thought with you; but the practice of some years has changed my opinion and convinced me that a densely forested country must be first *thoroughly* cleared, and that a second growth must succeed before it can be finely ornamented with shade trees. Occasionally, to be sure, a huge forest tree may be left which will retain its hold in the soil, and flourish perhaps for centuries; but such instances are rare. When I first commenced clearing, I left numerous trees of all sizes, both scattered and in groups; but many of them soon died by the heat of the sun, and from the want of their accustomed moisture; and of those that lived, after every heavy wind storm, numbers of them would blow up at the roots with a mass of unsightly earth attached to them, or wrung and twisted off midway in the trunk, remained a riven and splintered stump in the field. My plan is therefore to clear the ground thoroughly when the timber grows tall and close, and either cultivate shade-trees by transplanting, or suffer the vigorous young shoots to grow from the stumps of the smaller trees, as they often do, and select from them sufficient for all future purposes of shade and ornament. Selected in this way, with the large root and abundant sap of the former tree, they grow with great rapidity, and in a very few years give all the shade and convenience, as well as the beauty and utility that is required.

Nothing, however, can be more picturesque and beautiful than the scattered park-like native "openings" of our western lands or the delightful timbered islands of the prairies. More splendid and magnificent models of vegetable creation cannot be found in the world—and then, in proper localities and numbers, they cannot be too sacredly preserved from the axe and the fire. In the preservation of these, I rejoice to say, that many of our countrymen have exhibited great good taste, and at the same time have had an eye to permanent utility.

L. F. ALLEN.

Black Rock, Nov., 1847.

TEST FOR SOUND EGGS.—The larger end of a newly-laid egg feels cold when placed against the tongue. A newly-laid egg, also, appears semi-transparent when placed between the eye and a strong light, and has a small and perceptible division of the skin from the shell, which division is filled with air or gas. If an egg shakes, it is sure that it is stale.

WEIGHT OF EGGS.—The average weight of a newly-laid egg is about 3½ oz.; the white generally weighs 1¾ oz.; the yelk 1¼ oz.; and the shell and skin ½ oz.

Ladies' Department.

RURAL PASTIMES BY SOCIAL LABOR—No. 3.

In connexion with the "Working-Bee" at the minister's house, which, as a custom, is somewhat circumscribed in its limits, being confined almost exclusively to certain rural districts in our Eastern States, I shall attempt to describe another of similar object, called a "Donation Party," but differing slightly in its details, and being less local in its character. Although much more in fashion north of "Mason and Dixon's line," it is not unknown among our more Southern and Western neighbors, having been carried with the rapid tide of emigration from its source in the land of steady habits. One difference between the two is striking; for while the "Bee" is rarely known except in the country, the Donation Party is quite as frequent in the towns. In fact, these parties are known wherever the congregation is not rich enough to give their minister a regular salary sufficient to supply him and his family with the comforts of life. There is one feature common to both of these extremely interesting meetings, that is delightful to contemplate, and this is the liberal spirit spread abroad, which does not confine its influence to the members of the church whose minister is to be provided for, but in numerous instances warms the hearts of friends and neighbors of different religious creeds, who gladly join the charitable throng, and acknowledge it a privilege to be allowed to lend their aid in a good cause.

In preparing for these parties, there is generally a good deal of quiet consultation among the influential members, to prevent too much of one thing of a kind, and too little of another, from being provided, although there is always a clear understanding between the donors and the receiver, that what is superabundant may, without offence, be exchanged at "the store" for articles more necessary. At these preliminary councils it is agreed that one or more shall wait upon the minister to ask when he and his wife will be ready to receive them, and to fix the afternoon of that day for the party. I have never but once been present at these "love feasts," as they might well be called, but from that one I carried with me a heart full of agreeable reflections, and the wish that at my pleasant home such things were done.

Early on a bright afternoon in October, the lane leading to the minister's house was crowded with pedestrians, and vehicles of many forms and names. The good man, with the grateful feelings of his heart beaming in his face, stood at the door to assist the ladies to alight, and to receive his beloved guests, and those free-will offerings that were too large, or unfit to be carried into the house. He had been settled among them only a few months, but the bonds of Christian love are soon drawn closely between a faithful pastor and his flock; and they had well employed the time in spying out the wants of the household. None came empty-handed, and it was curious and amusing to see the almost endless variety of articles spread about the door, and around the wife, who, with her children, remained in the neat little sitting-room, and welcomed with smiles and tears of gratitude, the guests and their offerings, which were deposited upon every unoccupied spot, until the room looked like a storehouse. Hitherto, Mr. —— had walked his rounds of parochial visits, or had been indebted to some kind neighbor for the loan of a horse, or a drive in a wagon. It was therefore with peculiar pleasure that he received a stout nag, from two rich sisters, while a third who was prevented from attending in person, sent the kind message, that "she expected the horse to graze in *her* lot, as he had always done!"

Among other acceptable presents, I noticed a fine fresh cow "given, because the children must have milk;" a sheep, a hog, a barrel of flour, and a warm camlet cloak, to the latter of which the village tailor had contributed his mite by making. There were knitted woollen stockings of all sizes for the children; a neat wicker cradle for the baby; the winter's stock of wood; comforts for a sick room; and several books, valuable for their contents, and enhanced by good type and paper. Everything seemed to have been thought of; nothing omitted that would add to the comfort of these humble servants of their Heavenly Father. One thoughtful matron brought a pretty, though not costly lard-lamp; for she had seen the minister's wife, a few nights before, happy even amid poverty and discomfort, singing at her work, while she was mending her husband's black coat by the dim light of a tallow candle.

The young and the gay also brought their gifts, adding many pretty, useful articles of their own manufacture to the more solid contributions of their parents. While his face was bright with the grateful feelings naturally excited by receiving so many substantial proofs of the affectionate regard of his people to their pastor, I could not but observe a quiet, peculiar smile play for a moment about his mouth; as he noticed one article, so inappropriate for the humble room it was intended to adorn, and so frail in its texture, that all seemed to wonder how it could have been thought of at such a time. This was a beautiful, elaborately ornamented vase filled with wax flowers wonderfully true to nature, and tastefully arranged too, presented with a true boarding-school grace, by a pretty delicate girl, who had been brought up, I dare not say *educated*, in a "fashionable seminary for young ladies." These flowers were graciously received, and justly admired, but in that small room, crowded with children, where everything was in daily use, where could they be placed in safety? No marble table covered with elegant trifles was there; nor any space on the already well filled mantel. If she had not looked so self-satisfied, I could have pitied the pretty donor when the vase was deposited "just for the present" upon the coarse cloth that covered the tea-table. A few thoughts as to the fitness of things would soon have set her right, had she taken the trouble to think. The same time and money would have made half a dozen nice shirts, or if fancy work were preferred, and in this "work-a-day world" I love fancy work too well to proscribe it—she might by uniting the beautiful with the useful, have made a pair of embroidered slippers, or a cushion for the study chair.

No, I would not proscribe the ornamental under the most humble roof; but would rather strew

flowers in every poor man's path, to elevate his thoughts above the mere necessities of life; and so I suppose felt a great awkward, shame-faced boy, who, with cheeks crimsoned by health and modesty, made his way rather unceremoniously through the crowd, and presented, in a common red flower-pot, a fine, healthy young rose-bush, covered with buds and flowers just bursting into bloom, saying in a clear, joyous tone, "these, Mrs. * * *, is the *cutting* you gave me the first day you came to live here. Didn't it grow nice?" Need I say how different was the smile that greeted this gift of the heart, as it was passed from one to another for the tribute of praise, and then placed in the sunny window?

The remembrance of these donation visits long remains to cheer the heart of the good man whose life is spent in going about doing good in this humble sphere of a country clergyman, and if he cannot command the delights of highly intellectual society, he has at least the comforts of rational conversation, and social enjoyments, such as these, which like sunbeams play among the clouds of his life of trials. E. S.

Eutawah.

TO COOK SEAKALE.

After being well washed, tie it in small bundles for the convenience of taking up, and drop it into a saucepan of boiling water, in which a little salt, according to taste, has been dissolved. Keep it boiling. In about 25 minutes it will be done enough, which may be known by trying it with a fork. Sir Humphrey Davy tells us that the reason why vegetables and fish should be plunged into boiling salt and water, is, that this solution boils at a higher temperature than fresh water; and that the sudden scalding fixes the albumen, mucilage, and other nutritive parts of the viand, instead of their being macerated and sodden, and so partly lost in lukewarm water. The most economical mode of serving seakale is to lay it in a vegetable dish with a strainer at the bottom, and to send up in a small tureen any sauce that may be desired at the same time. The usual way is to lay it on sippets of toasted bread, and pour over it some white sauce, or melted butter made with milk instead of water.

Marrying.—"If ever you marry," said an uncle, "let it be to a woman who has judgment enough to superintend the work of her house; taste enough to dress herself; pride enough to wash herself before breakfast; and sense enough to hold her tongue when she has nothing to say."

Boys' Department.

GOOD ADVICE TO BOYS.

Well, boys, another year is drawing to a close, and it is important that you look back and see what has been done the season past and what you are to do before hard winter sets in. Have you kept any account of the crops you have raised, the animals you have reared, or of any of the experiments you have tried upon your fathers' farms? If you have read attentively all that has been printed for your benefit in the Agriculturist, and heeded it, you have learned a good deal about work, and have had considerable amusement too. Have you raised a little patch of vegetables or a few fowls for your minister? He has been feeding your minds with religious and useful knowledge through the year, and it is no more than right that you should do something for him and his children in return. Have all your farming and gardening tools been carefully cleaned and stored away in readiness for spring? See that all rusty spots are properly scoured and oiled, and that the tools be put away secure from moisture or wet. How is it with those two-year-old heifers that came in last summer? Were their calves taken from them when a week old, and fed on skim-milk and Indian meal? Were they milked clean, and do you continue to milk them as long as they will give a gill at a time? This will make them hold out and be good milkers much longer than they otherwise would, when full-grown cows?

It is winter now, and I trust you are all at school *every day*. This is the time for study as well as for amusement or play. Instead of wasting your time on dead languages, learn how to read, write, and spell the English, without missing a word; and study geography, arithmetic, botany, entomology (the history of insects), geology, book-keeping, chemistry, and mechanics. When you understand the essentials of these branches, it will be time enough to attend to Latin and Greek.

In learning English, it would be a profitable exercise to write an account of your experiments on the farm; get your teacher to correct your composition, write it over again, and send it to the Agriculturist for publication. In so doing you will vastly improve your style and will soon acquire a taste and aptness for writing, attainable, perhaps, by no other means.

Attend to geography until you become familiar with the position, boundaries, and general features of all the chief countries of the globe, particularly of the territory of the United States. Study arithmetic and book-keeping until you are able to measure, estimate, and keep an account of every operation of the farm, or of the common concerns of a farmer's life. Make yourselves acquainted with botany, sufficient, at least, to be able to distinguish and write the names of all the trees and plants that are essential to a garden or farm; and with entomology, until you know the names and habits of all the insects injurious to vegetation, meat, wool, &c., and the means by which they may be exterminated or destroyed. In a like manner geology and chemistry should be understood sufficiently to be able to distinguish the names and properties of all the rocks and kinds of soil on the farm and vicinity, and to have a practical as well as a theoretical knowledge of the composition and application of all kinds of fertilizers or manures that are specially adapted to any class of soil or rotation of crops. In studying mechanics, you must become familiar with the laws of motion, as well as those of friction and gravitation, and with what are technically called the "mechanical powers." By acquiring these, and the handy use of the ordinary tools, employed in working wood, much time and expense may be saved on a farm in making and repairing implements and tools, that would otherwise be lost.

S. A.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL NEWS.

By the arrival of the Steamer Acadia we are in the receipt of our foreign journals up to the 4th of November.

MARKETS.—*Ashes* is limited in demand. *Cotton* has fallen ¼d per lb. *Flour and Indian Meal* in good demand at an advance. *Beef, Pork, Butter, Cheese, Lard, and Naval Stores*, a slight decline. *Rice*, firm. *Tobacco* steady. *Wool* somewhat depressed.

Money was still in great demand at a rate of interest varying from 6 to 10 per cent. Many more failures had taken place to a large amount, although things were considered a little easier.

The Potato-Rot begins to show itself in Great Britain and Ireland again, and large losses are anticipated.

Sheep Affected with the Small-Pox.—A case was lately brought before the police of the Smithfield Market for the sale of twenty Merino sheep affected with the small-pox, having eruptions on various parts, but particularly under the shoulder, which appeared to be similar in character to those of the same disease in the human subject. They were imported from Spain nine weeks before, and had been kept grazing until they were supposed to be in a healthy state. The salesman had rejected about 300 sheep from the same flock the morning of the sale, that were laboring under the disease in the inflammatory stage. The officers very properly ordered the sheep to be removed, on the ground of the offence of bringing animals laboring under contagious diseases into a public market to the danger of all the animals there. The matter was subsequently brought before the faculty of the Veterinary College, who, after examining and testing the contagious properties of the disease, decided that a perfectly healthy animal could, by mere approximation, be infected and die in the space of nine days; while by the process of inoculation, the disease could be conveyed in a much shorter period; and that it is highly dangerous to permit animals so affected to approach those in health. Measures were accordingly adopted by the police to destroy all sheep in a diseased state that might be brought into the market, or offered for sale.

A Valuable Manure.—It has been estimated that the grease, or yolk obtained from the washing of wool in France, might be sufficient to manure 370,000 acres of land.

Agricultural Lectures are about to be delivered in various parts of Ireland, at the suggestion of the Lord Lieutenant.

Comparative Value of Food.—It has been stated that 107 parts of wheat, 111 of rye, 117 of oats, 130 of barley, 138 of Indian corn, 177 of rice, 895 of potatoes, 1335 of turnips, are equal in nutritive power.

Properties of Eggs.—Eggs are popularly supposed to be so much alike, that what can be said about one egg is thought applicable to every other laid by the same species of bird, the common hen for example; but there is nearly as much distinguishable difference between the units in every egg-basket which is carried to market as there is between the faces in a crowd of men, or the hounds in a pack. To every hen belongs an individual peculiarity in the form, color, and size of the egg she lays, which never changes during her whole lifetime, so long as she remains in health, and which is as well known to those who are in the habit of taking her produce as the hand-writing of their nearest acquaintance. Some hens lay smooth cream-colored eggs, others rough, chalky, granulated ones; there is the buff, the snow-white, the spherical, the oval, the pear-shaped, and the emphatically egg-shaped egg. A farmer's wife who interests herself in the matter, will tell you with precision, in looking over her stores, "this egg was laid by such a hen"—a favorite perhaps —"this one by such another;" and it would be possible that she should go on so throughout the whole flock of poultry. Of course the greater the number kept, the greater becomes the difficulty in learning the precise marks of each. From a basket of 30 eggs, gathered in a farm-yard as they came to hand, 11, laid by one or two hens whose race we were desirous to continue, were selected in about two minutes by the friend who supplied us with them.—*Gardeners' Chronicle.*

Incubation.—From Fortune's "China," vol. i., p. 80, you find the method of hatching the eggs of the duck in cotton wool. Reflecting upon that account it immediately occurred to me that a great error might have been committed both in the Egyptian and steam processes of incubation, by taking for granted that it was from the continued warmth of the mother, instead of only its prevention of escape, which was necessary for the production of the chick. Acting upon this idea, and from the experiment now made, I think I am justified in saying that my surmise will eventually be found true, and that the heat is developed within the egg, precisely in the same manner as our own animal warmth, from the union of its yolk with the oxygen of the atmosphere. Having mown over some pheasant's eggs, apparently only a few days sat upon, I caused them all to be inclosed accordingly in wool, and in due course the whole number of chicks were produced.—*London's Magazine.*

Antidotes against the Potato Disease.—In the early part of this year I dug up, for a vegetable garden, a piece of old pasture, about 40 yards in length, and 30 in breadth, sloping in its shorter line to the southwest, and every way open to sun and air. The subsoil is a stiff blue clay. Part of it I occupied with three patches of potatoes, respectively planted about the middle of March, the middle of April, and the very beginning of May, all of the sort known hereabouts by the name of Shaws, the first planted being of an earlier kind than the others. A previous dressing of about half a ton of quick-lime was bestowed on the whole of the ground. The sets of the first planted potatoes were steeped in a solution of Kagenbusch's Germinating Compound; the second potatoes were planted whole, in holes, at the bottom of which was placed a powder formed of calcined bones, soda, gypsum, wood-ashes, and lime, as recommended by some German professor. The third sets were imbedded in a pulp of mixed grease and potash; in fact, a soft soap, according to an American suggestion, borrowed from your columns. The first crop proved scanty, and of poor quality, but free from disease. The second and third patches, which I have taken up yesterday and to-day, give a plentiful and full sized produce, but at least two-thirds of the tubers are diseased. A few pink kidneys, springing from roots left in the ground last year, and transplanted, prove, for the most part, good. My inference, as far as the value of the preventive measures I have tried, is, that they are empirical and uncertain, and I am inclined to the opinion prevalent among many, that stimulating manures are unfavorable. [From reports received from various sources it would seem that early planted and early harvested potatoes have escaped the prevailing malady, while those which have been affected with the disease have been planted and dug late.—ED.] —*Gardeners' Chronicle.*

Blue Hydrangeas.—Diluted chamberley will change Hydrangeas blue.—*Ibid.*

Horse-Flesh Banquet at Frankfort.—About 160 persons sat down yesterday to a horse-flesh dinner, in the Adler Hotel, at Bornheim. The dinner was ordered by the Frankfort "Society for the Protection of Animals." We are enabled to state that horse-flesh affords a very palatable dish. The dinner was enlivened by many toasts and songs.—*Frankfurter Journal.*

Substitute for Potatoes.—A large importation of West India yams has lately taken place in consequence of the anticipated scarcity of potatoes.

Editor's Table.

DOMESTIC ANIMALS.—History and Description of the Horse, Mule, Cattle, Sheep, Swine, Poultry and Farm-Dogs, with Directions for their Management, Breeding, Crossing, Rearing, Feeding, and Preparation for a Profitable Market; also, their Diseases and Remedies, with Full Directions for the Management of the Dairy. By R. L. Allen. New York: C. M. Saxton, 205 Broadway. 12mo. Price in numbers, 75 cts. with paper covers 50 cents. The title of this work speaks for itself. All we can with propriety say, is, the design of the author is fully carried out, and it is our candid opinion that no book has ever been issued from the American press more useful to the farmer or conveys so much truly practical information on the subjects of which it treats. The prices are sufficiently low to insure its circulation throughout the land.

HARPER'S ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE of Valuable Standard Works, with Numerous Engravings. New York: Harper & Brothers, pp. 160, 8vo. To librarians connected with colleges, district schools, &c., as well as individuals who may not have access to any reliable guide in forming a true estimate of literary productions, it is believed the present catalogue will prove particularly useful. It embraces the most extensive collection ever published in this country by one house, and with few exceptions in Europe, presenting a series of works occupying a very wide range of literature, the selection of which has been governed by a rigid critical taste, and the prices exceeding low. Copies of the catalogue may be had by personal application to the publishers, or by letters post paid.

THE ROSE; Its History, Poetry, Culture and Classification, by S. B. Parsons. New York: Wiley & Putnam, pp. 280, royal octavo with Colored Engravings. Price $2.00. This work will meet a welcome reception from the admirers of the Rose. The author's connection with a large nursery establishment has given him familiarity with his subject, and his remarks on culture and classification are founded upon observation and experience. The historical department is full of interesting facts and anecdotes, and that of poetry is quite a collection of gems from the most classic authors. On the last department we notice two or three original contributions from the author's own pen, which are highly creditable to his poetic talents. The publishers have done their part well in getting it up. The paper, type, and binding are suitable to the subject, and altogether, form a handsome book. Its history commends it to the general reader; its poetry to the ladies; its botanical classification to the botanist; and its culture and garden classification to the cultivator. We shall be greatly disappointed if this elegant work does not have a large sale. It would be an appropriate Christmas or New Year's gift.

PEACHES AND SILK COCOONS IN LOUISIANA.—We observe by one of the Louisiana papers, that the Rev. A. W. Poole, of Woodland, East Feliciana, besides attending to divinity and literature, is quite successful as an amateur agriculturist. The editor says, on Monday last we saw a fine specimen of peaches of his culture, and cocoons which show that the experiment of raising them in this State is no longer a matter of doubt or uncertainty.

THE CULTURE OF THE GRAPE.—By J. Fisk Allen, Embracing Directions for the Treatment of the Vine, in the Northern States of America, in the open air and under glass-structures, with and without artificial heat. pp. 55 octavo. Price 63 cents. The author of this publication resides in Salem, Massachusetts, being one of the most successful grape-culturists in the United States. He is enabled to write from his own experience, and in the above valuable little work, has given the vine-grower exactly such information as he is most in need of. We wish in another edition he would treat of the field-culture of the grape as fully as he has of that under glass, and to this he might add the best method of making wine. Most of the works heretofore published on this subject in this country are of foreign origin, and therefore not exactly suited to our climate and situation. What we want are American works from American experience.

WEBSTER'S AMERICAN DICTIONARY of the English Language; Exhibiting the Origin, Orthography, Pronunciation, and Definitions of Words. Abridged from the Quarto Edition of the Author. To which are added a Synopsis of Words differently pronounced by different Orthoepists; and Walker's Key to the Classical Pronunciation of Greek, Latin, and Scripture Proper Names. A New Edition, Revised and Enlarged by Chauncey Goodrich, Professor in Yale College. With the Addition of a Vocabulary of Modern Geographical Names and their Pronunciation. New York: Harper and Brothers, large 8vo. Sheep extra. Price $3.50. It is universally admitted, both in Europe and in this country, that Webster's Dictionary of the English Language is the best and the most perfect work of the kind ever published. The deep learning, profound research, and persevering industry of the author are too well known by all of his countrymen to require further comment here.

This last edition by Professor Goodrich, has been entirely stereotyped anew, and is now beautifully reprinted in close type, upon large pages with double columns, from perfect plates. Several thousand additional words have been incorporated with copious synonymes now for the first time introduced into this work, embracing all the terms given in the new edition in the quarto form; and the utmost pains have been taken to render every definition full, clear, and commensurate with the progress of the language and age in which we live. As its title imports, it is truly an *American Dictionary*, containing most if not all of our provincial words from North to South, and before any other work of the kind it should be placed in the hands of every farmer's daughter and son; nor have we any hesitation in saying that, from its low price and convenient form, it will not only be introduced into all the higher schools and colleges in the country, but be the constant companion at the desk and fireside of every student in the Union.

THE CASTOR-BEAN.—A friend who has some statistical information with respect to the production of the castor-bean, and the manufacture of the oil, handed us a few days since, the following calculation, which we cheerfully publish, trusting that the farmers of our vicinity will look to the enterprise and test its efficiency.

Say 40 farmers plant 20 acres each; 800 acres at 35 bushels per acre, would yield 28,000 bushels; 28,000 bushels at 50 cents per bushel would amount to	$14,000
1,225 barrels, cost $1 each,	1,225
Freight to N. Y. at $1.50 per barrel,	1,838
Charge for insurance, &c., &c., $1 per bbl.,	1,225
Two hands to make oil, say,	512
Total of expenses,	$18,800
28,000 bushels beans will yield 1¾ gallons oil per bushel. 49,000 gallons in all—at 60 cents per gallon	$29,400

Deduct expenses, $18,000, and the 40 farmers, with 20 acres each, would realize the handsome profit of $10,600. This may be considered figure work, and an easy way to speculate on paper; but we hope the experiment will be tried by our enterprising neighbors. There is too much hemp raised.—*Lexington (Mo.) Express.*

REVIEW OF THE MARKET.

PRICES CURRENT IN NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 24, 1847.

ASHES, Pots,	per 100 lbs.	$6 00	to	$6 06
Pearls,	do.	7 81	"	7 87
BALE ROPE,	lb.	5	"	6
BARK, Quercitron,	ton,	35 00	"	38 00
BEANS, White,	bush.	1 00	"	1 25
BEESWAX, Am. Yellow,	lb.	22	"	25
BOLT ROPE,	do.	11	"	12½
BONES, ground,	bush.	45	"	55
BRISTLES, American,	lb.	25	"	65
BUTTER, Table,	do.	15	"	25
Shipping,	do.	9	"	15
CANDLES, Mould, Tallow,	do.	11	"	12½
Sperm,	do.	25	"	38
Stearic,	do.	20	"	25
CHEESE,	do.	5	"	10
COAL, Anthracite,	2000 lbs.	5 00	"	6 00
CORDAGE, American,	lb.	11	"	13
COTTON,	do.	6	"	9
COTTON BAGGING, Amer. hemp,	yard,	15	"	16
FEATHERS,	lb.	30	"	40
FLAX, American,	do.	7½	"	9
FLOUR, Northern and Western,	bbl.	6 00	"	6 25
Fancy,	do.	6 50	"	7 00
Southern,	do.	6 00	"	6 25
Richmond City Mills,	do.	—	"	—
Buckwheat,	do.	—	"	—
Rye,	do.	4 50	"	4 62
GRAIN—Wheat, Western,	bush.	1 20	"	1 38
Southern	do.	1 15	"	1 30
Rye,	do.	90	"	92
Corn, Northern,	do.	73	"	75
Southern,	do.	70	"	72
Barley,	do.	76	"	80
Oats, Northern,	do.	48	"	50
Southern,	do.	44	"	47
GUANO,	do.	2 50	"	3 00
HAY, in bales,	100 lbs.	58	"	60
HEMP, Russia, clean,	ton.	220 00	"	225 00
American, water-rotted,	do.	160 00	"	220 00
American, dew-rotted,	do.	140 00	"	200 00
HIDES, Dry Southern,	do.	8	"	9½
HOPS,	lb.	7	"	9
HORNS,	100.	2 00	"	10 00
LEAD, pig,	do.	4 50	"	4 63
Sheet and bar,	lb.	4½	"	5⅛
MEAL, Corn,	bbl.	3 00	"	3 75
Corn,	hhd.	17 50	"	18 00
MOLASSES, New Orleans,	gal.	32	"	38
MUSTARD, American,	lb.	16	"	31
NAVAL STORES—Tar,	bbl.	2 31	"	2 50
Pitch,	do	81	"	1 00
Rosin,	do.	60	"	75
Turpentine,	do.	2 75	"	3 00
Spirits Turpentine, Southern,	gal.	38	"	42
OIL, Linseed, American,	do.	58	"	60
Castor,	do.	1 20	"	1 25
Lard,	do.	85	"	90
OIL CAKE,	100 lbs.	1 25	"	1 50
PEAS, Field,	bush.	1 00	"	1 25
PLASTER OF PARIS,	ton.	2 25	"	3 00
Ground, in bbls.,	of 300 lbs.	1 12	"	1 25
PROVISIONS—Beef, Mess,	bbl.	8 50	"	12 00
Prime,	do.	5 50	"	7 50
Smoked,	lb.	7	"	11
Rounds, in pickle,	do.	5	"	7
Pork, Mess,	bbl.	13 00	"	15 00
Prime,	do.	9 75	"	12 00
Lard,	lb.	10	"	11¼
Bacon sides, Smoked,	do.	6	"	8
In pickle,	do.	5	"	7
Hams, Smoked,	do.	8	"	13
Pickled,	do.	6	"	10
Shoulders, Smoked,	do.	6	"	9
Pickled,	do.	5	"	7
RICE,	100 lbs.	3 00	"	4 00
SALT,	sack,	1 40	"	1 50
Common,	bush.	20	"	35
SEEDS—Clover,	lb.	5	"	8
Timothy,	bush.	1 75	"	3 50
Flax, clean,	7 do.	10 00	"	11 00
rough,	do.	9 25	"	9 50
SODA, Ash, cont'g 80 per cent. soda,	lb.	3	"	3
Sulphate Soda, ground,	do.	1	"	—
SUGAR, New Orleans,	do.	6	"	9
SUMAC, American,	ton,	35 00	"	37 00
TALLOW,	lb.	9	"	10
TOBACCO,	do.	3	"	8
WHISKEY, American,	gal.	26	"	28
WOOLS, Saxony,	lb.	35	"	60
Merino,	do.	30	"	35
Half blood	do.	20	"	25
Common do		18	"	20

REMARKS.—Cotton, Wheat, and Flour are the only articles which have fallen of any consequence since our last, and the change in these is not very material.

Money is scarce and hard to be obtained except upon the best paper, and that occasionally sells at a considerable discount from legal interest.

The Weather has been highly favorable for the fall business. We hear of no complaints at the North, except of the potatoe-rot. In some districts at the South, Cotton is coming on poorly. Rice has proved a good crop, and Sugar promises a large yield.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Communications have been received from David Tomlinson, Calvin Coulter, Jr., L. F. Allen, A Farmer's Wife, F., and A. L. Bingham.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—Specimens of Ground Ivy, or Ale-Hoof from F. of Fairfax, Va., Descriptive Catalogue of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, from Benjamin Hodge, of Buffalo; Proceedings of the Agriculturists' and Mechanics' Association of Louisiana, from D. J. Flukers; and some other pamphlets which have unfortunately been mislaid.

PUBLISHERS' NOTICE.

THE publishers respectfully request all persons indebted to them for the paper, or for advertisements (and those to whom bills have been sent), to remit the amount during this present month, November. A large number of subscribers are yet indebted for the Vol. for 1846, as also, for 1847, now near its close. The Agriculturist was continued to their address to save them trouble (a request being made in the January number that it might be returned if not wanted), and we hope no one will, through neglect, subject us to loss for the accommodation. The heavy expense of publishing our paper compels us to call upon our friends in this manner. The individual amounts due are quite small and apparently unimportant, but the aggregate is large and the receipt of these small amounts would enable us to go on with renewed zeal.

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Reference, Editor of American Agriculturist.

L. G. HOFFMAN.

Albany, Sept. 1, 1847. d2t

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